A

PICTURE

OF

ITALY.

Archenholz (J. W. von)

BRITISH MUSEUM

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Tranſlated from the Original German

OF

W. DE ARCHENHOLTZ,

Formerly a Captain in the Pruſſian Service.

By JOSEPH TRAPP, A. M.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

PUBLIC.

MULTIFARIOUS are the reaſons which induced me to give the Engliſh reader a Tranſlation of the preſent work: but what outweighs every conſideration is the Author's liberal and candid way of thinking in retroſpect to this nation. Though his "*Picture of England*," lately publiſhed, made him incur the charge of being a ſuperficial obſerver, yet I

think it incumbent on me to premiſe, that theſe ſheets, beſides the advantage of an original verſion, will ſhow him in a more advantageous light, and retrieve or rather vindicate, in many reſpects, his character as a philoſophic traveller. I will take it upon me to ſay, that the obſervations contained in theſe volumes are the mature reſult of a long and reiterate reſidence in the different Italian States he deſcribes. They are obſervations of a competency of judgement, which no impartial critic can deny his ingenuity. It muſt give infinite pleaſure to an Engliſhman to behold here, in a comparative view, the excellence of the Britiſh Conſtitution, reli-

religion, laws, and other civil and military prerogatives.

On the other hand, I eagerly ſeize this opportunity to venture ſome reflections upon a London theatre, compoſed of a ſet of Italian adventurers, which has ſo long and undeſervedly met with the higheſt protection and encouragement. What a pity the Britiſh Nobility ſhould degrade their native taſte and genius, by giving ſuch undue preference and ſupport, as every liberal mind muſt either aſcribe it to the folly of faſhion, or the moſt ignorant partiality!!!—The ſo-called "*King's Theatre*," where a ſet of amphibious beings uſurp the

empire of immortal Shakeſpeare, is the place I allude to. Where this national evil ſprings from either or both of the above-mentioned ſources, I invite all faſhionable readers, who labour under the predicament, to peruſe this work, which, on the ſubject of theatricals, defines the Italian ſtage an amuſement for the effeminate, who wiſh to feaſt their ears upon ſqualling and empty ſounds, and their ſenſes upon indecency and licentiouſneſs. How great is my ſurprize that no one has hitherto ſtood up to aſſert the right of the native Muſe, and that her excluſive merit could ſo long be ſuffered to be trampled upon!

Ye

Ye Great of the Nation, it is to you I appeal! It is you that let bend your *immortal Bard* under this ſhameful oppreſſion! It is you I ſhall never ceaſe to tax with flagrant injuſtice or ignorant partiality, unleſs you reform this abuſe, do homage to the genius of your country, replace true merit on her long-uſurped throne, and leave thoſe intruders to vegetate in the ſphere of obſcurity.

Far from making the leaſt apology for having thus vented my indignation at your conduct, I ſhall be proud of your blame in the cauſe of honeſt truth. I would, however, have you obſerve, that, in all other points, I

am the moſt unbiaſſed admirer of your brilliant parts, ſuperior accompliſhments, and true humanity.

Having, from this evil alone, ſeen people of genius pining in diſtreſs, manufacturers ſlighted, and tradeſmen oppreſſed, I cannot forbear charging you with the cauſe of their common grievances, and with them cry aloud—redreſs! redreſs!

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PICTURE, &c.

SECT. I.

General remarks upon Italy.—Wretched ſtate of its inhabitants.—Politics.—Want of patriotiſm.—Ignorance.—National odium. Vanity.—Superſtitious fear.—Unſocial and inhoſpitable temper.—Ruling paſſions of the Italians.—Religious charity.—Poſts. —Horſes and Mules.—Games; Balloons; Cucagna; Sham battles; Races and bull-baitings.—State of ſciences.—Book-trade. —Poetry.—Eloquence.

NO country on earth furniſhes a more evident proof than Italy, how much the difference of government determines

the character of nations. Here climate, religion, and language are all uniform, and this in a country of a moderate extent; but how great is the difference between a Venetian and a Roman, between a Genoeſe and a Milaneſe, between a Florentine and a Neapolitan! This difference cannot eſcape the philoſophic traveller: yet a long reſidence in this country can alone make him acquainted with the peculiarities of character found among the inhabitants of each ſtate, which moſtly ſpring from their peculiar mode of government, and the diverſity of laws. So certain it is, that mankind, with or againſt their conſent, will imbibe all thoſe impreſſions with which their governors chuſe to influence them — a truth not attended to by the greateſt part of legiſlators, who ſeem to doubt its infallibility.

Though Italy has produced many great ſtateſmen, who made deep reflections upon

on politics: it has, however, been little conducive to the improvement of the inhabitants. It may rather be ſaid, that, in ſpite of their magnificent palaces, churches, and galleries of paintings, they rank among the moſt wretched ſubjects of modern Europe; becauſe the governments of this country, in other reſpects ſo different from each other, ſeem to have made one tacit covenant, to keep the people in indigence and ignorance; even till this day nothing is more rare among them than wiſe laws.

Beſides the fine arts, no ſcience derives ſo much its origin from Italy, as that of politics. The great number of the ſtates of this country, their unequal extent, the impoſſibility of uniting them in one legiſlative body, made it neceſſary that the princes for their preſervation, ſhould have recourſe to artifice and hypocriſy, which, after being univerſally ſpread, ſtu-

died and exerciſed by great ſtateſmen, were finally honoured with the name of politics. Thus politics took their birth. The French and Spaniards learned them in their wars in Italy, and ſucceſsfully exerciſed them againſt other nations, whoſe chiefs were not yet initiated in theſe political myſteries. Politics brought the fine arts in their train from beyond the Alps, they refined our manners, variegated our pleaſures, and, in a few generations, all Europe, whoſe capitals were not much better than large ill-ſhaped maſſes of wood, buried in mire, was filled with elegant ſtone buildings, magnificent churches and palaces. The fine arts tranſmuted the form of every thing, and even now the beneficent influence is ſtrongly felt.

However ambition and patriotiſm might actuate the ancient inhabitants of Italy, theſe characteriſtic traits are totally obli-

obliterated in the modern Italians; unleſs we would look upon ſome ridiculous prejudices they entertain of their country, as an equivalent for that ſublime virtue. Oppreſſive ſlavery, which pervades almoſt every province of the land, naturally nips the ſhoots of ambition, which is rare even among the greateſt Italian artiſts, and abſolutely ſubordinate to the love of gain. Indolence and poverty are the cauſes of the groſs ignorance which is here inſeparable from all ranks. Their ſchools, univerſities, and academies are a real lampoon upon learning, arts and ſciences. Whilſt other nations reap the fruits of knowledge, they are but ſlowly vegetating. This great backwardneſs is even unknown to their greateſt wits, becauſe they are unacquainted with the modern languages, and do not travel. Indeed, of all the great nations of Europe, none travel leſs than the Italians. To ſpeak in general terms of this country, it

may well be aſſerted, that neither the nobles, the learned, nor the merchants travel, notwithſtanding the great benefit the latter might derive from it, both in knowledge and connections. Their painters and *caſtratos* paſs only from one place of deſtination to another, and, after a reſidence of many years, leave it as ignorant as if they had always remained beyond the Alps. The only travellers in the nation are pedlars, and dealers in hatchels, &c. who perform their journies on foot.

The Italians love their country without being patriots. The various forms of government and laws, and the jarring intereſts among the ſtates of ſo many unequal provinces, are great obſtacles to patriotiſm, and hinder in ſome reſpect its very exiſtence. He that conſiders how rarely patriotiſm is found in Germany, the only country in Europe which bears reſemblance to Italy in point of its dif-

diſmembered ſtates, will be inclined to derive the want of this virtue among both nations from the ſelf-ſame ſource. Though the Italians do not make war among themſelves, yet the neighbouring ſtates generally diſlike one another, and this diſlike degenerates frequently into a marked hatred and contempt. The many members of ſo imperfect a ſtate look upon themſelves as ſo many nations, whilſt ſuch a ſituation does away every hope of a conſiſtent harmony. The Genoeſe, Florentines, Neapolitans, and Romans, foſter ſo great an odium againſt each other, as never was manifeſted between the Engliſh and French. This is not only the caſe with the people; but even perſons of rank and education give vent to their antipathy, and ſometimes in a moſt ungenteel manner.

The extravagant and high-conceited notions entertained by the Italians of eve-

ry province, is the ſource of that odium. Hence their authors mention upon the title of their books, the town or village that gave them birth, however obſcure or unimportant, becauſe they think to dignify them by their productions.

Although the Italians be very ſuperſtitious, yet they are leſs haunted by the fear of ſpectres or evil ſpirits, than other countries. Their carrying the dead uncovered to the grave is a cuſtom that may well account for it. This uſage, excellent in many points of view, annihilates at the ſame time the puerile dread of corpſes, and is an inſtructive, ſtriking image of the vanity of human life.

To fear the living is nevertheleſs the character of the modern Italians. Hence their inſidiouſneſs, their ſtabbing with daggers, and diſinclination to war. No country in Europe, in regard to ſituation, is ſafer againſt enemies, yet none has been

been attacked ſo often, and always with ſucceſs. Till this hour, nothing is more inſignificant than the military force of the Italian States, excepting the troops quartered in the provinces belonging to the houſe of Auſtria. I ſhall expatiate upon this in ſome other place.

Hoſpitality is no where leſs exerciſed than in Italy. Neglect of the ſocial virtues, extreme parſimony, or rather ſordidneſs in every private expence, makes the Italians diſregard this virtue, with many others. Honour obliges them to be civil to a ſtranger, or, if they have ſome political deſign upon him, they think to give the moſt convincing proof of their eſteem, by inviting him to a cup of chocolate. They are utter ſtrangers to tea and coffee-aſſemblies, thoſe great and pleaſing ſources of amuſement in other countries. Even the beſt families have their coffee brought from coffee-houſes; the cravings

of appetite are ſatisfied in the ſame inſtant, and the whole paſſes on without admitting the leaſt friendly chat or converſation. Who would ſuppoſe that there is not a ſingle public garden in Italy, where people may meet and divert themſelves in an innocent manner. No ſocieties, no clubs, no private balls, in ſhort, no ſocial pleaſure is to be met with in that country, which in England, and ſo many other kingdoms, make a perennial fountain of numberleſs recreations. I pity the man, whom climate and arts, however captivating, can compenſate for ſuch wants.

It is a matter of fact, that Italy boaſts of men whoſe mind and heart are equally excellent, but inſtances of this ſort are very rare. Want of knowledge is very apparent here, and the cultivation of mental powers highly unuſual.

Beſides

Beſides this, the Italians are governed by two powerful paſſions, the common failings of the inhabitants of warmer regions, viz. love and vengeance. It would be very natural to combat from the pulpit this latter paſſion and its conſequences, ſo detrimental to ſociety, but it makes very ſeldom the ſubject of a ſermon, becauſe the miracles of the ſaints are themes of a much ſublimer nature, and leave no leiſure for moral doctrines.

The ſpirit of the Roman religion generates a virtue, the effects of which are very perceptible in Italy. The love of one's fellow creatures is practiſed here to a high degree, and no nation on earth except the Engliſh can put themſelves, in this point, upon a level with the Italians. With the former it is mere philanthropy, whilſt with the latter it makes a precept of religion, and embraces the tenet of the purgatory.

The moſt inconſiderable town in Italy has ſeveral hoſpitals, but they are very numerous in great cities. I ſhall ſpeak elſewhere of the hoſpital for females at Venice, and the vaſt pilgrim hoſpital at Rome. The latter may be called the throne of beneficence in Italy. The income of all the Cardinals is ſaid not to amount to a third part of the revenues of the hoſpitals of Rome.

Magnanimity and philanthropy are the only baſis of the laws belonging to thoſe inſtitutions; they are the indiſcriminate receptacles for individuals of every nation and religion, without its being required of them to get previouſly an order from the miniſter or ſome reputable perſon, as is cuſtomary in many countries. The Jews alone are excluded from this advantage; and in thoſe towns where they are tolerated, they muſt provide for their own poor and ſick, whether natives or foreigners. Should it happen that there

were no room in a hoſpital, the patient is viſited at his dwelling by regular phyſicians, and ſupplied gratis with medicines. It muſt be confeſſed, that ſuch articles of religion deſerve every encomium: articles that afford active relief to ſuffering mankind, and oblige the rich to let the needy participate of their abundance.

The poſts of Italy are ſtill in an infant ſtate. You will find here no ſtages, no chaiſes, in general, no conveyances by which effects of value may be tranſported under the authority of the ſovereign. There are no common waggons which paſs from one province to another. To remedy this, the great cities of Italy have a number of poſt-offices belonging to the different princes. At Rome, there are as many as there are petty—or great princes in the land, which naturally creates confuſion. This want of poſts renders difficult the communication between the various provinces and their inhabitants:

habitants. Of courſe, very few Italians viſit even the adjacent diſtricts, and they are ſtill leſs diſpoſed to travel into foreign countries, beyond the Alps, unleſs talents or adventure ſhould ſtimulate them to go in queſt of fortune. Foreigners wiſhing to travel with œconomy in Italy, ſhould hire a *Vetturino*, a man who drives a covered chaiſe with two wheels, and goes about ſix or ſeven German leagues a day. This ſort of men is to be met with in every great town, and the traveller muſt alſo make a bargain with him for his victuals; ſhould he neglect to do this, he may depend upon paying the expences of the driver and his horſes for the whole journey. In order to effect a tolerable treatment and complaiſance on the part of the driver, a gratuity at the end of the journey ought to be promiſed him, beſides the payment agreed upon. This gratuity is given in proportion to his conduct.

To

To the indolence of the natives which marks almoſt every one of their public proceedings, and binds them, as it were, to their native ſoil, we muſt add the want of horſes, which prevails throughout Italy except in Naples. They are even ſeldom uſed for tillage, and oxen are put to the plough. As beaſts of burden the mules are of great ſervice to the Italians. A ſpecies of animals which bears great reſemblance to the mule, and can hardly be diſtinguiſhed from it, is called *Gimerro*. This animal is either bred from a ſtallion and a cow, or a bull and a mare, or from an aſs and a cow, and is of high utility eſpecially in the mountainous Cantons.

The Italians love even the very name of gaming. In the variety of their entertainments they diſcover an inexhauſtible invention. But ſuch diverſions as require a great diſplay of bodily ſtrength, are left to the lower claſſes of people. Among thoſe may be reckoned a certain balloon

or

or ball game. A large leather ball, filled with air, is beaten about by twelve perſons. This game, called *Pallone*, is uſual throughout Italy. It is played for conſiderable ſums, and players from remote places are ſometimes invited to it. The Tuſcans have a balloon game ſimilar to the above; it bears the name of *Calcio*, and is played not only by twelve but more numerous parties.

The game of *Cucagna*, of which there are ſeveral ſorts, is confined to Lombardy, Tuſcany, and Naples. They erect lofty trees, whoſe bark is previouſly ſtripped off, and ſuſpend from their higheſt branches various articles of wearing apparel and victuals, which are deemed the reward of him who can reach them. To render the taſk more arduous, the tree is ſometimes ſmeared with ſoap; the continual and ſudden falls of the climbers excite the laughter of the ſpectators, and make the eſſence of the entertainment.

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In another ſort of *Cucagna* a cord is extended on high to which the ſame rewards are faſtened, beſides whole ſheep, ducks, chickens, &c. which the people ſtrive to pull down by leaping.

I have alſo ſeen in Florence a race with waggons, dull and inſignificant indeed, and what might properly have been deemed a ſatire upon the ancient Roman chariot race. It was a ſet of ragged fellows ſtanding upon a country waggon and driving the horſes before them; in ſhort, I ſaw nothing more or leſs than what the ſmalleſt market town exhibits on every market day; boors returning in their empty carts with ſomewhat more than uſual haſte. I never ſaw a more pitiful popular diverſion than this, yet it was exhibited upon the great ſquare in Florence.

The peaſants of Piedmont in their races yoke oxen to their carts, giving firſt to the animals as much wine as will make them

them drunk, and afterwards drive them at the hazard of their lives. Frequently the carts overturn, and the drivers either break their necks, or become cripples.

Sham-battles or mock-fights have been till recently, in uſe through the northern parts of Italy, chiefly at Turin and Piſa. At Turin they were given on holidays before the walls on the banks of the Po. Numbers of the inhabitants divided into parties and ſlung ſtones againſt each other. The combat was ſo furious as to be followed by a ſeries of fatal accidents: ſuch as were made priſoners had their hair cut off on the ſpot. The late King of Sardinia put a ſtop for ever to thoſe battles (*battajola.*) The reigning Grand Duke of Tuſcany, now Leopold II. Emperor of Germany, followed his example with regard to the mock-fight upon the bridge of Piſa, where people annually fought during one hour with matchleſs fury, to take poſſeſſion of a bridge thrown over

over the river Arno. The combatants appeared here in complete armour, and their heads were covered with helmets; their weapons conſiſted of ſtrong clubs, with which they fell upon one another and did much execution. Their leaders were cavaliers of the firſt families, who many days before the combat paraded the ſtreets with colours and muſic, in order to inliſt their parties. This foſtered the family hatred between many houſes, and created a ferment among all claſſes of people not much unlike a civil war.

In ſome provinces of Italy, for inſtance, in the diſtrict of Ancona, bull-baitings are cuſtomary, and Corſican dogs let looſe upon bulls; the ſpectators ſit in an amphitheatre and coolly view thoſe fine ſpectacles.

I ſhall touch upon horſe-races, when treating of the Roman carnival; they are not performed with riders as in England,

land, but the horſes run by themſelves. I ſhall obſerve the ſame rule with regard to rowing matches, or regattas, on the ſubject of Venice, and ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak about the religious amuſements, which are reſerved to entertain the people at large.

It is incontrovertible, that the Italians have been our maſters in the arts, but in point of ſciences this can only be maintained with great reſtrictions; for it is well known, that they never made any progreſs in many branches of literature; even when they were in the moſt flouriſhing ſtate, there was an immenſe diſtance between the literature of thoſe times, and that of modern England, France, and Germany. Who will compare a Guiccardini and a Machiavel, as hiſtorians, with a Robertſon, a Hume, a Gibbon, a Raynal? No Italian writer ever attempted to deliver philoſophy in a popular man-

manner; a ſubject, on which we have ſo many excellent works.

Imperfect as the ſtate of literature was among the Italians, even this dawn of ſcience did not continue long. In the laſt century both arts and literature began to decline. The ſtudy of the claſſics was neglected, and the progreſs of neighbouring nations was thought an object unworthy of their notice. Thus ignorance ſpread little by little, and in the eighteenth century plunged that fine country into the barbariſm of the middle ages. Mathematics, and ſome branches of natural hiſtory are the only ſciences cultivated with ſome ſucceſs. It would be in vain here, to look for proſaic works, that combine inſtruction with entertainment, works that teach the philoſophy of life, ingenious diſſertations upon intereſting ſubjects of the ancient world.—Theſe productions ſo abundant, I ſay, amongſt

amongſt the three moſt enlightened nations of Europe, would in vain be ſought here; they would not find readers. Authorſhip is yet in its cradle. There is no bookſeller of property in the country, except ſome printers and paper manufacturers, who follow a kind of book trade beſides their own; for a real trade in the above line, is, properly ſpeaking, unknown here. Such an occupation is looked upon too inſignificant, as to be deemed an eſſential branch of commerce. The great cities have dealers in books, but they ſeldom carry their trade beyond the walls of the place they reſide in. It may eaſily be gueſſed, how little thoſe gentry can encourage writers with ready caſh. One florin is uſually paid per ſheet, and this not only in Calabria, but even in Florence, a city which many conſider in a better light.

The fair ſex, whoſe power to form and ſoften the manners of the men is ſo great,

can

can operate but little in Italy, on account of various abſurd prejudices of decency. As moſt of the ladies are educated in convents, they lay up ſo copious a ſtore of ſuperſtition, as will laſt them for life.

Though the Italians are fond of political chat, and teſtify their intereſt in every political contingency, they have, however, no intereſting works on that head, except thoſe of Machiavel. Few are their tranſlations, as there are no readers. The voyages round the world were, for many years, totally unknown to this ignorant nation. Even among the beſt company, the politicians and the literati (if you pleaſe to call them ſo) the venerable name of Cook has never been mentioned.*

* This was ſtill the caſe in 1780. From that time they began to make extracts from the voyages of that celebrated navigator, and to tranſlate them into their language.

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The great poets of modern Italy, whoſe names are always in the mouths of their degenerate poſterity, cannot kindle the poetic fire among the preſent poetaſters. Their whole art is confined to the ſonnet, and they are almoſt perfect ſtrangers to the idea of a great poem.

Their eloquence deſerves as little notice. Falſe images, ill-adapted compariſons, a bad delivery, accompanied with the moſt violent geſtures and grimaces, equal to that of the meaneſt buffoon, conſtitute the eloquence of the pulpit and the bar. The orator puts himſelf in all ſorts of poſtures, makes wry faces, and preſents ſo droll a countenance in general, that a ſtranger who never ſaw him before, would think he ſaw a madman. This extreme violence operates forcibly upon the Italian hearers; it is what he is led to expect; it makes his attention unremitted, whilſt the ſoftneſs and ſenſibility of a *Sterne* would lull him aſleep.

Thus

Thus far my general remarks upon this nation. Hereafter I ſhall delineate more minutely the characteriſtic of each ſtate.

SECT. II.

VENICE.—*Deſpotic government.—Character of the Venetians.—Deſcription of the Carnival.—Annual Venetian fair.—Inſignificant arſenal.—Navy.—Army.—Nobility.—Ariſtocratic conſtitution.—Seſſion of the Senate.—Elections.—Doge of Venice.—The Senate humbled by Count Orlow.—Gondoliers.—Girls of pleaſure.—Monks.—St. Mark's church.*

THE inhabitant of Venice boaſts of living in a republic, and curſes the deſpotiſm of monarchic ſtates; forgetting that he himſelf is governed with an iron rod, which would bear much heavier upon him, did not the government take care to diſſipate him by amuſements.—Theſe amuſements, however advantageous to the ſtate, by the concourſe of tra-

travellers, are chiefly calculated for the people. Without ſimilar diverſions the Venetian, in ſpite of his ſprightly temper, would be as ſerious as an Engliſhman.—He is reſerved on every other topic, except that of pleaſure. The fear of the ſtate inquiſition and its informers fetters his tongue. This dreadful tribunal, which condemns without hearing, is an abſolute ſupport of the ariſtocratic power, meanwhile it affords protection to the citizen againſt the enormous violence of the nobles.

The ſeverity of that ſupreme court of juſtice is now much relaxed, with regard to foreigners. It is thought ſufficient to puniſh their indiſcretion with baniſhment. They are ſecured by night, and conducted by ſbirrs (guards) beyond the frontiers without any farther hearing. After the great decline of trade at Venice, the viſits of travellers became the greateſt reſource of the nation; it was therefore neceſſary

to adopt milder maxims, in order not to deter them from viſiting a country which can by no means do without them.

To make a Venetian happy the proverb requires three things:

"*La mattina una meſſetta,*
"*Lapodiſnar una baſſetta,*
"*E la ſera una donnetta.*"

(In the morning a ſhort maſs, in the afternoon a little party at cards, and at night a comely laſs.) Theſe are the genuine outlines of the Venetian character, for there is no nation in the world ſo fond of gaming as they, yet they do not neglect the rites of the church, in order to keep up the dignity of good Roman Catholics in which they glory, notwithſtanding their frequent diſagreements with the popes. They expreſs a certain good nature in their words and actions not to be found among the other Italians. Their nobles affect

affect the ſame good nature among themſelves, but power and authority, the only objects of their purſuit, deſtroy the ſhoots of kindneſs, and ſteel their hearts againſt the ſoft ſenſations of philanthropy.

In 1774 the Senate iſſued a proclamation prohibiting all games of hazard.—They were forced to it by the ruin of many noble families, whom this bad habit had reduced to the moſt abject poverty. As Venice was little viſited at the enſuing carnival, it cauſed ſuch uneaſineſs, that the recal of the gaming laws was brought on the carpet before the great tribunal of the nation, and the motion was carried by a majority of two votes. The late Emperor viſited Venice in 1775, to ſee the celebrated fair. As this brought together an aſtoniſhing number of ſtrangers, the amuſements were multiplied, and whilſt gaming was forbidden in all other provinces of Italy, this celebrated carnival again reſumed

its flattering diſtinctions of being chiefly viſited by foreigners.

Notwithſtanding the great praiſes laviſhed upon this feſtival, in ſpite of the obſervations and comments of many authors, of the ſongs compoſed upon it, and the great concourſe of foreigners, no traveller has ever analized it with the boldneſs of diſpaſſionate argument, and given its real character to ſuch as have not ſeen it. A ſuperficial deſcription, or common place panegyric, is not the taſk required of ſuch a narrator. With an appeal to truth, and, as I riſk to paſs for a ſplenetic obſerver, I will not enter into tedious details, but content myſelf with pointing out the moſt ſtriking parts of that famous carnival, and exhibiting them in their true light.

Theſe diverſions are: 1ſt, plays; 2d, routs; 3d, the entertainments of St. Mark's place; to which may be added, the

the *regatta*, or rowing match, which is ſometimes given when ſome great prince is preſent at the carnival.

The plays, which are given upon ſeven different theatres, conſiſt of ſerious and comic operas, ballets, comedies, farces, and pantomimes. The three firſt are of no moment to him who has frequented the theatres of London, Paris, and Vienna; nay even thoſe of Naples, Rome, Turin, and Florence. A ſet of ſingers, dancers, and muſicians join in a body, and borrow of Jews and Chriſtians a certain ſum limited by the permiſſion of government, at 20, 30, or more per cent. This is intended as a ſecurity for the payment of the performers they may hire. Frequent are the diſappointments they meet with, for they ſeldom engage above one ſinger to act the ſame part, of courſe the leaſt indiſpoſition of one of the principals, or any other little accident may ruin the whole body of thoſe heroes, and fruſtrate all their hopes. Elſe-

where the mode of entertainment would be changed, but here it is impoſſible.—The great number of theatres cauſes the deſertion of that which had the accident: ſhould even the finger's recovery, or ſome other expedient remedy the evil, the credit of the theatre is irretrievably loſt for that ſeaſon. Theſe circumſtances give a ſufficient hint of the frugality obſerved in all the preparations, which render it almoſt morally impoſſible to find a complete performance, like thoſe uſually ſeen in the above-mentioned cities. Sometimes the muſic is well managed, but the dreſſes are mean, and the decorations ſhocking. If a painter becomes a member of the company, his branch will be ſplendidly executed; but the ſingers will perform badly, and their dancers will only hop. Adding to all this, certain indecent uſages, which are only practiſed upon the Italian theatres, and the late hour of the play, which only begins after ten at night, it muſt be granted, that theſe thea-

theatrical performances are not very enviable. What has been ſaid is worſe ſtill with reſpect to the comic operas; he that goes to ſee them, does it either for the purpoſe of killing time, or for want of ſome other mode of diſſipation.

What remains of thoſe entertainments makes me forbear all mention. If no common comedy is acted *(comedia di caratere)* ten farces are given in its ſtead, conſiſting of the moſt nonſenſical jokes of *pantalone*, *arlechino*, and *tartaglia*, &c.— The actors of thoſe parts are well paid, whilſt the others get ſcarce as much as will ſatisfy their natural wants. It is incredible, how over-fond the Venetians and other Italians are of theſe farces. A ſerious ſubject meets with an empty houſe, but when they can reliſh their above favourite entertainments, the pit, boxes, and galleries are crammed with auditors.— Profound ſilence reigns, and all is attention. The like is to be obſerved with

reſpect to the puppet ſhows, which are not only the entertainments of the plebeian, but are honoured by ladies of the firſt rank.

Since games of hazard have been proſcribed, the routs have nothing to recommend them to public favour. They are more brilliant in Naples, Rome, Vienna and London. There the number of ſtrangers is never conſulted; they increaſe the throng, but not the ſplendor of the feaſt, which can only be expected from an opulent and numerous nobility.

The entertainments on St. Mark's Place are partly common maſquerades, partly the tricks of jugglers, jack puddings and wreſtlers. It muſt be confeſſed, that they all are eminent maſters of their reſpective branches. They excel much in making a pyramid of men; an art which broke many a neck. Six or ſeven people erect themſelves upon each other,

other, and thus they proceed with regular and proportionate weight to the top, where at laſt a boy ſtanding upon his head forms the ſummit. This exerciſe, which is no where to be ſeen but in Venice, according to Claudian, was already known to the ancient Romans, who performed it exactly in the ſame manner.

The peculiar ſituation of Venice forces every body that is in want of bodily exerciſe, to make St. Mark's Place ſubſervient to his purpoſe, unleſs he had rather paddle through the moſt narrow and ſtinking ſtreets. St. Mark's Place being, therefore, the general rendezvous at all times of the day, and frequented from the higheſt character down to the meaneſt plebeian, it naturally follows that this place, magnificent indeed, muſt in a little time appear to a ſtranger the moſt tedious ſpot on earth. The immenſe number of people, who, during the carnival, aſſemble continually upon it, makes the

throng ſo great, as to render them incapable to look about themſelves, and much leſs to have an exact view of objects. The inſufferable crawling and tumult of the crowd takes off all reflections. He that can lay hold of any of the chairs ſtanding before the coffee-houſes to fetch breath, may think himſelf very fortunate. After all, ſummoning up the tireſome uniformity and exceſſive incommodiouſneſs which attends that place, every one muſt agree with me, that the ſight of a numberleſs crowd of maſks, many being dreſt in Venetian dominos and uniform, can have nothing very attractive. I leave the reader to conclude from this ſketch, how little that celebrated carnival anſwers its fame.

The Venetian fair, which uſually begins on Aſcenſion day, and laſts a fortnight, is alſo a kind of carnival; yet with this difference, that no perſon is allowed to appear maſked in character, but only

only in a Venetian domino. This fair would find few viſitors, being held in the moſt delightful ſeaſon of the year, when nature invites ſo much to her rural abodes, and Venice becomes the moſt loathſome place in the world; but a prudent policy, added to it the magnificent wedding of the Doge, with the Adriatic ſea, this ceremony draws together, beſides foreigners from remote countries, all the unemployed people from terra firma, to be gueſts at the nuptials, ſhould they only ſtay a few days.

In the year 1775 the number of thoſe who arrived on the eve of Aſcenſion day, amounted to 42480, excluſive of the preceding days. As this naval proceſſion, for the ſake of ſafety, is only performed in fair weather (it being put off in bad) it forms indeed as ſplendid a ſpectacle as can fall within the reach of human conception. The men of war, launched from the Arſenal, fully rigged, with ſtreamers

ſtreamers and pendants flying, form a line, and ſalute with their guns and muſic the Buccentaur,* whilſt ſhe cuts the briny ocean, attended by ſeveral thouſand gondolas. This ſalute is anſwered by a firing of cannons and vollies of muſquetry from the forts adjacent to the ſea. The late Emperor beheld that ceremony, in the above-mentioned year, in a paltry gondola. He refuſed all feaſts and marks of diſtinction; nevertheleſs a regatta was given upon the great canal, near which he took up his reſidence at an inn.

Theſe rowing matches, ſo much extolled by the Venetians, are the moſt inſignificant ſport under the ſun. The ſpectators who fill the houſes and the border of the canal, the carpets which hang out of the windows, beſides ſome decorated barges belonging to the nobility,

* This is the name of the veſſel that carries the Doge.

which

which ſail up and down, conſtitute all that is intereſting in that ſight. The match is rowed in common boats, with only one man in each, who ſtrives to bring his boat forwards. At that time there were twenty boats when they ſtarted, moſt of which kept ſoon behind, and at the bridge of Rialto I could ſee no more than five of them. The Venetians, who are as great gaſcons as the people of the Garonne, called this, *La famoſiſſima Regatta* (the moſt famous rowing match). The three firſt who reach the point, receive prizes, which in all do not exceed 100 zechins. This, and the embelliſhing St. Mark's Place, where the ſhops are at other times ſeparate, were then united, covered, and illuminated with lamps, was all the expence which the Republic beſtowed upon ſo extraordinary an occaſion. Thus Government conſult œconomy, even in a time when all the newſpapers, their own not excepted, were filled

filled with previous accounts of extraordinary *fêtes* never exhibited before.

People are accuſtomed to ſpeak of the arſenal at Venice with a kind of enthuſiaſm, and travellers make it the firſt object of their curioſity. Nothing, however, preſents itſelf here to the eye of the impartial obſerver, but what is better in other countries beyond all compariſon. It is not difficult to trace the cauſe of that illuſion. The ſituation of Venice renders it neceſſary that the works and implements of war ſhould be conſigned to one and the ſame place. That place, which is encompaſſed with a wall, is called the arſenal. It contains, beſides all neceſſary warlike ſtores, the Venetian ſhips of the line, gallies, *galleons*, and other veſſels; alſo a cannon foundery, a gun manufactory, a place for boiling ſalt-petre, and manufactures of canvas, tackle, &c. In ſhort, you find here united all that is required for war, either by water or by land,

land, whereas elſewhere a particular place is deſtined for the making of every article. Adding to this, all the work-places of the workmen, the cazerns of the garriſon, the admiral docks, the ſhip-builders and ſoldiers, who are all quartered in this diſtrict, it may eaſily be conceived, how much this enormous whole dazzles the eye: yet it contains nothing but what will be found upon a much larger ſcale, but in ſeparate departments, not only in Portſmouth, Chatham and Breſt, but even in Copenhagen. I muſt, however, beſtow praiſes upon a certain method adopted in this arſenal, which, notwithſtanding its evident utility, has been imitated no where elſe. This is the covering of the unrigged men of war, to preſerve them againſt the bad effects of the weather. The age and laſting good ſtate of a great number of the Venetian men of war, furniſh a moſt convincing proof of the good effects of that expedient. A friend of mine recommended it to the celebrated Lord Sand-

S . . . . . ch, at that time Firſt Lord of the Admiralty, but the great emoluments ariſing to his lordſhip from the building of new ſhips, made him naturally prefer his own private intereſt to the advantage of the ſtate; he, of courſe, was little diſpoſed to liſten to ſuch like propoſals. The warlike ſtores in this arſenal are much fitter for inſpection than for uſe. The prodigious quantity of guns, ſwords, &c. were they not conſumed with ruſt, would be even now as totally uſeleſs as the numerous armours of the middle age, which are kept here for ſhow. Taking the whole maſs together, it makes an impreſſion on a common traveller, and he joins the echo, which proclaims this arſenal the wonder of the world. It may, perhaps, have been matchleſs in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and deſerving its fame; but from the preſent change of times, I venture to maintain, that it will not accoutre properly a modern Pruſſian regiment of

foot, and much leſs fit out a numerous fleet, with ſuch armaments as the age requires. To this add the great ignorance of their officers, both by land and ſea, the fruit of too laſting a peace. Whatever great things the Government of Venice may think themſelves in the right to boaſt of with regard to the arſenal, the more degrading is the ſtate of the navy, which hardly ſuffices to protect the Venetian trade againſt the pirates, and to frighten their neſts of rapine.*

The Venetian and all other Italian ſailors do not diſplay the hardineſs and de-

* The ſquadron of the Chevalier Emo has not long ſince confirmed this judgement upon the Venetian marine. In 1786 it could ſcarcely frighten the Tuneſe. The expences of the expedition were not only quite infructuous, but the conſequence was, that it threw a national ſtigma upon the proud republic of Venice; and the Senate was obliged to pay the pirates a conſiderable tribute.

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fiance of all dangers, ſo natural to that claſs of men in the northern parts of Europe. The leaſt ſtorm makes them fly to their roſary, and more taken up with prayer than work, they commit the ſhip to the fury of the waves: mean time it ought to be remarked, that they eat no meat on faſt-days, but make the ſign of the croſs before it.

The landſmen are more like banditti than ſoldiers. Bad cloaths, an equal want of diſcipline and honour, makes them the worſt troops in Italy, even without excepting thoſe of the pope. No expedition can make them worthy of notice. It may be ſaid that the warlike virtues of the Venetians were buried under the ruins of Candia. It is well known, that in the famous ſiege of Corfu, the very officers of the garriſon, ſome of whom were nobles, urged the brave General Schulenburg, ſoon after the commencement of the ſiege, to ſurrender the town to the Turks. They

They preferred ſlavery to making any farther reſiſtance. Lucky for Venice, that Schulenburg, who before then had commanded, with great honour, againſt Charles XII. of Sweden, was not infected with the ſame ſpirit of cowardice, but ſaved, through his gallant conduct, that bulwark of Italy. Theſe armed milkſops ſhewed a few years ago how unworthy they were of the very name of ſoldiers. The Emperor drew up a cordon againſt the plague upon the frontiers of Dalmatia. The huſſars, who had received orders to march for that purpoſe, met with ſome Venetian regiments of foot, brought thither by the ſame motive, who drew up in parade at the approach of the Imperial troops. The huſſars intended to be even with them with regard to that ſhow of honour, and, the word of command being given, they all drew their ſabres. This martial movement wrought ſo forcibly on the Venetians, that the whole battalion,

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as had it been previouſly agreed upon, took all at once to their heels.

A few of the Venetian nobles are rich, the reſt are poor, even ſo poor, that many of them live in garrets, buy and dreſs their own victuals, and have no other means of ſubſiſtence than their vote, which the pooreſt as well as the rich may give in the Senate, and which makes the higheſt prerogative of the nobility. Nevertheleſs, theſe very poor carry pride and inſolence to an extreme. It being a crime to touch them, they often emancipate themſelves in giving ſuch offences, as would meet with proper reſentment in any other part of Europe. A French nobleman, in the crowd of St. Mark's Place, undeſignedly ſhoved a little againſt a Venetian noble. The latter took him by the arm, and aſked, which was the moſt clumſy animal? The Frenchman, alarmed at this conduct, anſwered, he believed, the elephant. "Well, Mr. Ele-

"phant,"

"phant," replied the former, "learn to "walk more cautiouſly whenever you "meet a Venetian noble." He that would not put up with the affront on ſimilar occaſions, would ſurely bring evil conſequences upon himſelf. Every one of theſe beings thinks himſelf a prince: they exact the title of "Your Excellency" from every body, and very ſeldom uſe it towards others. If they have not a whole coat to their back, if they are as ſhabby as beggars, they nevertheleſs conſider themſelves as a particular claſs of men, which ought to inſpire with reſpect, not only their own countrymen, but all nations. This abſurd vanity, which muſt appear comical, when matched with want of power, cauſes the Venetian Envoys to make a very pompous entry at moſt courts. However ſenſible they are, or at leaſt ſhould be, of their inferiority, they feel no ſhame in aſſuming a prerogative above the ambaſſadors of the greateſt powers, and this under the pretence of being

being nobles and ſenators, of courſe, belonging to the legiſlative power, and of being in ſeveral reſpects the repreſentatives of the republic. Are not Engliſh ambaſſadors at foreign courts ſometimes members and parts of the legiſlative power? And what a wide difference is there between the two, not only in their capacities and *active* ſphere, but even in the freedom of ſpeaking and acting! What a ſlave is the ariſtocratic tyrant compared to the Engliſh ſenator! A mere ſlave, whoſe liberty, honor and life are in the hands of three individuals, who, under the title of State Inquiſitors, exerciſe their deſpotic ſway leſs by law than by caprice, without the former having it in their power to bring them to an account. Howbeit it muſt be ſaid, that they ſeldom make uſe of that power, yet it is done with the ſanction of the fundamental laws of the republic.

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I have already obſerved, that this tribunal protects the citizen againſt the moſt oppreſſive violence of the nobles. That protection is, indeed, very neceſſary; the poor nobles would otherwiſe commit murder and robbery. I was myſelf an ocular witneſs to their unwarrantable actions in a particular occurrence, which, however, is very common here: it had ſo ſtrong an effect upon me, that I thought I was not in Venice, but in Morocco. One of thoſe tyrants entered a jeweller's ſhop and aſked the price of a ſnuff-box. The maſter of the ſhop, knowing whom he had to deal with, told him, trembling, about half the uſual price. This could not ſave him from invectives, he was obliged to ſwallow a *birbo* (rogue), whilſt the noble threw ſome change upon the counter, put the box in his pocket, and went away. The merchant, with a ſorrowful countenance, took up the money; and when I expreſſed to him my ſupriſe at this ſcene, he ſaid, "What can we

"do? We ought to be content for not "being uſed ſtill worſe. It muſt come "far indeed before we make complaints, "which in all reſpects are moſt detrimen-"tal to ourſelves."

The well-known rigorous law, that will not ſuffer a noble to have any connection with foreign miniſters or their dependents, a law, in many reſpects, equally abſurd and ridiculous, becomes advantageous to the oppreſſed citizens, to keep their tyrants at a diſtance in private balls and other family recreations. This requires no more than to have a livery ſervant, belonging to ſome ambaſſador, to ſtand before the door. Such a ſight diſcards at once the dance-loving ſenators, who, like the angel of deſtruction in Egypt, paſſes over the door thus marked. If this precaution is not taken, they will immediately intrude and predominate. Many tavern and coffee-houſe keepers adopt the ſame expedient to keep off

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thoſe troubleſome gueſts, by prevailing on ſome body belonging to an ambaſſador to viſit their coffee-houſe, which will have an infallible and deſired effect.

In 1775 the ſenate, conſtrained by the too prevalent poverty of the nobles, opened the golden book, in which the names of the new-created members are written. This expedient has many a time been tried to recruit the nobility with rich ſupporters, and to increaſe the treaſure. In the laſt Turkiſh war, the price of being created a noble ran as high as one hundred thouſand ducats. Many merchants of Venice improved this opportunity, and gladly laid down that enormous ſum for their diploma. But of late their proceeding was quite different; they only would admit candidates from the nobility of their terra firma, or their continental poſſeſſions. The conditions were: four anceſtors, an annual income of ten thouſand Venetian ducats, and a perpetual

reſidence in Venice. The latter condition, which the policy of the ſtate renders abſolutely neceſſary, made a very few participate that gracious offer, which, however honourable, is but downright ſlavery. None of theſe nobles can travel out of the country, without leave of the ſtate-inquiſitors, who will rarely give their conſent. None durſt even venture to viſit his gardens or country reſidence, if ſomewhat remote from the city. The above reſtriction, which extends to all foreigners who viſit Venice, in caſe they have any connection with ambaſſadors, is the ſource of their ignorance with reſpect to the laws, manners, cuſtoms, and cultivation of other nations, and of the high opinion they have of their own ſtate, which they conſider as one of the moſt powerful on earth. As they are not deſtitute of natural good ſenſe, this ignorance, added to their ſimple and circumſcribed manner of living, might produce the greateſt eccentricity of character, did not the iron

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rod of ſtate-inquiſition hover inceſſantly over their heads. The number of all the nobles who can appear in the ſenate, does now amount to one thouſand four hundred and upwards. Happy for the adminiſtration that this ſenatorial tribe aſſembles but rarely, elſe the confuſion would be endleſs.

As on certain days, when the ſenate meet in St. Mark's palace, foreigners are allowed to be preſent, and thoſe meetings being held with dignity, order, and decorum, they are apt to look upon the ſenators with a kind of reverence, good-naturedly believing every other meeting to be like thoſe to which they have been admitted. But it is a matter of fact, that when the doors are ſhut againſt them, dignity is frequently ſet aſide, and replaced by confuſion, low railleries, quarrels, and tumults. It is alſo not to be ſuppoſed, that a ſet of men, either free, or at leaſt thinking themſelves free, who are

governed by oppoſite paſſions, ſhould keep within the bounds of moderation in ſuch hours, when thoſe very paſſions operate moſt forcibly upon them. It may therefore be looked upon as a maxim, that every republican aſſembly, in proportion to its members, betrays, more or leſs, ſomething of a plebeian nature. Such Venetians and Genoeſe, who are no ſtrangers to theſe political ſecrets, and are frank enough to ſpeak the truth, will avow a matter confirmed by the parliamentary tranſactions of Great Britain and Ireland. However jealous of decorum and dignity the inhabitants of thoſe iſlands ſhow themſelves in their familiar converſation and intercourſe, yet the man, with his paſſions appears without maſk in parliament; nay, I dare boldly aſſert, that the aſſemblies of the Athenian, Spartan, and Roman ſenates of much revered memory, have been ſubject to the ſelf-ſame frailties.

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It did not want any ſuperior wiſdom to build the Venetian conſtitution. The nobility arrogated to themſelves both politic and civil power, and left it as an inheritance to their poſterity. No middling dependent power is to be found here.—The citizen, the people, even the clergy, ſo powerful in other Roman Catholic countries, are here empty, unavailing ſhadows; the nobility alone hold the legiſlative and executive power in their own hands.

Fear, ſuſpicion and miſtruſt are the pillars that ſupport the government of Venice; parting from this principle they conſider all European powers as clandeſtine enemies, and their miniſters as dangerous perſons. Nothing is more true, than their giving very great encouragement to informers. Morality is quite ſet aſide, as the maintenance of ariſtocratic tyranny is looked upon as the greateſt civil virtue. How little praiſe-worthy is therefore a go-

vernment, which, to form a good citizen, muſt firſt make him a bad man!

Never nation took it in their heads to inveſt three individuals with illimited power over the liberty, life, and death of their fellow citizens. To Venice alone was reſerved the erecting ſo extraordinary a tribunal under the name of ſtate-inquiſition, whoſe deſpotic ſway is unparalleled in Europe. It has ever been the maxim of all free ſtates, not to truſt with too great power a ſmall number of men, for Machiavel juſtly obſerves: "*Few are ſuborned by few.*" But the Venetian nobles have been of opinion, that, in order to preſerve ariſtocracy, and to prevent all the ſeditions of powerful families, it wanted abſolutely a few individuals, whoſe province it ſhould be, to act without all formalities. A few years back debates came on in the ſenate, about the aboliſhing of that inquiſition, when it was found with ſurprize, that this power was only

only in conſequence of certain mandates, which had nothing to do with the conſtitution. Nothing, therefore, was eaſier than to reform that abuſe; yet the contrary enſued, and in virtue of a decree of the ſenate, the great authority of the ſtate-inquiſition has now been paſſed into a formal law.

The elections to the offices of ſtate are like the wheel of fortune, if the ſtate is lucky, it will be well governed. Deſcent is here the chief law to which they tenaciouſly adhere. People are here well acquainted with the abuſes and defects of adminiſtration, but they are tolerated as inveterate evils; for this reaſon they reject all projects of reform, offered by men of abilities. Innovations are incompatible with the politics of the Venetian government. The abſurdity of ſuch a ſyſtem needs no proof, as a wiſe government ſhould change its maxim according to times, to circumſtances, and the cultiva-

tion of the people, and ſhould in every degree adapt itſelf to the ſpirit of the times. All the European ſtates have changed their civil political ſyſtem, Venice only adhered invariably to her own. The Venetians make themſelves ridiculous in adducing this as the cauſe of the permanent exiſtence of their ſtate, yet there is a kind of weakneſs, which is like natural death to ſtates, and makes viſible their inevitable diſſolution. This is actually the caſe with this nominal republic: it may juſtly be ſaid, that Venice is rotting in her *lacunas* (canals).

The power of the doge is very inconſiderable, even his influence in ſtate affairs moſt inſignificant. He ſtands expoſed to daily humiliations, which he uſually ſuſtains partly in the ſenate, partly from the inquiſitors. The day of his death is not a day of ſadneſs, as in other ſtates when princes die, but a day of rejoicing, of maſquerades and balls. The ſenators lay

aſide their black dreſs, and cloath themſelves in ſcarlet; in ſhort their conduct ſeems to indicate, that the republic is going to receive a new life with a new doge.

The chief ornament of the doge bears likeneſs to a horn, but not to the horn of abundance, called otherwiſe *cornucopia*, for this prince is poor indeed. The republic gives him his board, but very ſcantily. He is a boarder of the ſtate, ſupplied with what is moſt neceſſary to live, but all the magnificence annexed to his exalted dignity muſt be procured at the expence of his own private property. Whilſt other European princes get rich by governing, the former gets poor.—Many a doge has been ruined by his ſtation, and many a family is now reduced to indigence, becauſe their anceſtors have formerly been upon the princely throne.

There is no nation in Europe, the decline of whoſe ſtate is more viſible than

here. Decline of trade, of revenues, a wretched navy, a ſtill more wretched army, and little political eſteem from foreign powers. The ſenate a few years ago was in a very particular manner put in mind of that mortality.

Theſe deſpots had never been humbled yet. Count Alexis Orlow was the man deſtined to that end. In 1772, whilſt he commanded the Ruſſian fleet in the Mediterranean, he directed his voyage to Venice. Here he purchaſed a great deal of ammunition, arms, and other neceſſaries for the fleet, and ſecretly enliſted Montenegrines and Ablaneſe into the Ruſſian ſervice. This ſtung the republic, who ſtill looked as doubtful upon the happy ſucceſs of the Ruſſian arms in the Archipelago, and would give no reaſon of complaint to the Ottoman Porte. The Count was therefore deſired to leave Venice inſtantly. His anſwer was, that he would go as ſoon as it would ſuit him. Mean time

time he ordered to arms his officers, who amounted to above one hundred, to repel force by force. The wounded pride of the republic ſeemed to promiſe every violence at ſo unheard-of a reſiſtance. The ſenate took the matter into conſideration, and upon finding that they had too many reaſons not to enforce obedience by power, they uſed gentler means. The Count was civilly requeſted, by deputies in the name of the republic, to retire with his retinue, as they durſt not act againſt the neutrality reſolved upon in the preſent war. The Count anſwered, that a repreſentation and requeſt of that kind might perhaps have made ſome impreſſion on him, had they not been preceded by a poſitive command. He would receive orders by none but his miſtreſs, and would go whenever he pleaſed. He was faithful to his word, and the ſenate thought it not adviſeable to puſh things farther.

The

The main point of the police in Europe is to keep the common people within bounds; where the civil officers cannot do it, ſoldiers will; but in Venice great part of the common people themſelves are uſed for that purpoſe, and in caſe of neceſſity, government put their whole dependence upon them. The particular ſituation of the city is the cauſe of that. It requires an infinite number of watermen, who are known by the name of gondoliers, and make a diſtinct ſort of men. In Venice they reckon forty thouſand, a number almoſt incredible, as there are not above one hundred and fifty thouſand inhabitants. The gondoliers are indulged in every poſſible manner, and their miſdemeanors are overlooked, becauſe a great part of them ſtands in the pay of the nobles. Theſe political maxims brought it about, that they became extremely devoted to the ſenate, and make its ſtrongeſt ſupport. They boaſt of great theatrical knowledge, and frequently

quently a play awaits its fate from their approbation. They diſplay a deal of wit, and are great lovers of poetry. They can rehearſe a great number of verſes, which they chiefly ſing by moonlight.

Though a gondolier is upon the ſea day and night, yet he is unfit for a ſailor. His abilities are only conſigned to his gondola; his wiſhes go no farther than to ſteer it well, and to be ſubſervient by legal or illegal means in amorous intrigues, which always fetch him a good reward. Theſe people are indiſpenſable in love adventures. Without them aſſaſſination becomes often the conſequence of a gallantry. But they, knowing every winding and corner of the canals and ſtreets, facilitate the eſcape, and cover the retreat if neceſſary. Some of them keep up a ſecret correſpondence with the governeſſes and chambermaids, and procure rope ladders and falſe keys.

It is a wonder, that of ſo many thouſands of gondolas which are all day upon ſea, never one periſhes. There has never been an inſtance of ſuch an accident. It is attributed to the great ſkilfulneſs of the gondoliers, or to the particular ſtructure of the gondola. I cannot aſcertain how far this be true; it is, however, ſtrange, that ſuch accidents uſually happen in all commercial cities ſituate upon large rivers, whereas Venice, which lies in the middle of the ſea, and all whoſe inhabitants ſwim about on planks during a great part of their life, have nothing of that kind to fear. The colour of all the gondolas are black. It is forbidden by a particular law to have them of a different colour, or to ornament them in ſome other manner, for this reaſon they are all quite uniform, and exhibit a diſmal appearance. The foreign Ambaſſadors alone are at liberty to embelliſh their gondolas at their pleaſure, a prerogative omitted by none of them.

It

It muſt alſo be confeſſed, that theſe veſſels join to ſafety a very great convenience, and that it is a pleaſure to ride in them. I wonder how they have not been imitated upon the Thames and Seine, conſidering London and Paris are always ſo buſy in creating new modes of recreations. I communicated this remark to an Engliſh gentleman of diſtinction, who was with me in Venice at the ſame time. He liked the idea, and ordered immediately a model of a gondola to be got ready, which was four feet long; he ſent it by ſea to England, but the ſhip that carried it was loſt, and the project of the gondola has not been thought on ever ſince. The pleaſure boats uſed at London, Marſeilles, Hamburgh, &c. though they coſt a deal of money, are but ill-ſhaped boats, compared to the gondolas.

The girls of pleaſure are another claſs of beings who enjoy the ſpecial protection of

of government. They belong to the entertainments of the carnival, which could not do well without them. Moſt part of thoſe unfortunate females are ſold by their parents in their tendereſt infancy. Theſe make a regular agreement with lovers, or dealers in maidenheads. It is done before a notary public, ſtands valid in every court of juſtice, and ſpecifies a certain time when Miſs is to be yielded up, upon paying a ſtipulated ſum. The uſual price is from one to two hundred zechins. The agreement uſually ſets forth the poverty of the parents, and the motive to procure the girl a dower, to enable her to be decently married. This, however, is a mere pretence, as the parents keep the money, and leave their daughters in the brothel. Theſe nymphs obſerve moſt ſtrictly their faſts, go daily to maſs, and have their ſpecial tutelar ſaint, under whoſe auſpices they exerciſe their profeſſion with a good conſcience.

Ve-

Venice is a real paradiſe for the monks: they maſk themſelves for the carnival, frequent the theatres, keep miſtreſſes, and do in general what they think proper. In no country the diſcipline of the church is in ſo bad a ſtate. Several biſhops attempted to refrain thoſe extravagancies, but could not ſucceed; it is even popularly reported, and perhaps not without foundation, that government made ſecretly prove abortive thoſe good intentions. It ſeems to be a ſtate maxim to the ſenate, jealous of every thing that can abridge their power, not to give the prieſts too much authority among the people; a prerogative which cauſed but too much confuſion in all Catholic ſtates, and from which Venice has happily remained unattainted. This accounts for the extreme allowance made to the immorality of the clergy, and for the internal tranquillity in their differences with the popes, which are ſometimes carried to the higheſt pitch. This looſe conduct leſſens greatly the eſteem of

that

that ſpiritual body, and the ſenate preſerves an entire authority. Their proverb is known: "*Siamo Veneziani e poi Chriſtiani.*" Let us firſt be Venetians and then Chriſtians.

The Venetians in general care little about God, leſs about the pope, but a great deal about St. Mark. This ſaint was choſen the patron of the city, as ſoon as his body had been brought over from Alexandria. St. Theodore was formerly their tutelar ſaint, but their vanity was too great to put up with an underſtrapper, he would juſt do when the republic was ſtill in her infancy, but when ſhe became great and flouriſhing, they required a ſaint of the firſt rate. The body of St. Mark was brought over, they built it a magnificent church, and ſhabbily diſmiſſed their old protector.

St. Mark's church is the moſt magnificent, and moſt beautiful monument of architecture

chitecture of the tenth century. At that time Venice was the fineſt city in all Italy: its palaces, churches, and other public buildings were moſtly built by Greek maſters, and ſhow ſtill in their remains the taſte of thoſe times. But the beſt works of architecture which Venice exhibits, are productions of the ſixteenth century, when Sanſovino and Palladio embelliſhed the city with ſo many ſplendid edifices.

Sanſovino, a native of Florence, pupil of the famous Sangallo, was architect to the republic; he was ſucceeded after his death by the great Palladio. The moſt beautiful churches and palaces were conſtructed at this epoch. Sanſovino built the mint, called *Zecca*, the palace of the procurators, and St. Mark's Library; but he had a misfortune in building the latter, a misfortune which characterizes the ſpirit of the Venetian government ſuch as it from all times was, and now is. Sanſovino gave the moſt ingenious and no-

nobleſt models for the building of this celebrated library, and made the attempt to embelliſh it by a vault, conſtructed in a moſt ſingular and ingenious manner. But he was not ſucceſsful, the vault fell in: the government, deaf to every juſtification, ordered the artiſt to be thrown into priſon, where, regardleſs to his great abilities, he languiſhed for a long while. At laſt he was ſet free, but deprived of his poſt, and condemned to a conſiderable fine. After reiterated entreaties and petitions he was ſuffered to re-eſtabliſh the vaults, upon which a pardon was granted him.

SECT.

SECT. III.

St. Mark's Place.—Political Debates.—Dreſs.—Ladies.—St. Mark's Palace.—Stone lions.—Iſle of Rialto.—Canals (lacunas.) Giocondo.—Bridges.—Manners and way of thinking of the Venetians.—Padua.—Infamous debtor ſtone.—Vincenza.—Olympic Theatre.—Bergamo.—Breſcia.—Verona.—Plays acted in the amphitheatre of that city.—Policy of the Venetian Senate.

THE aſpect of St. Mark's place muſt be confeſſed magnificent. All the objects that ſurround it are great, beautiful, and noble, except the graceleſs Gothic tower, which forms a great contraſt with the other edifices, and produces the ſame effect as harlequin would in a tragedy. The place is ſurrounded with a portico, where

where there is nothing but coffee-houſes and *caſſinos*,* which are viſited by ſelect parties of both ſexes, as the ladies do not uſe coffee-houſes. The former have no doors, but are, properly ſpeaking, large niches provided with chairs, upon which indolent people keep ſitting during the whole day. As they always uſe a certain coffee-houſe by preference, where they ſit as it were, motionleſs, and wrapt up in their cloaks, they may be conſidered as real groups belonging to the niches.—Throughout Italy people do not talk ſo little as in theſe houſes.; let us be ever ſo ſatirical againſt coffee-houſe politics, we muſt, however, grant that they are the ſoul of all converſations in public meetings. Forbid a topic, in which the moſt ignorant, nay even the greateſt block-head, thinks himſelf ſomewhat converſant, and ſocial life will receive a deadly blow.

* Private rooms where the parties lock themſelves up.

Of

Of this truth Venice furniſhes the moſt irrefragable proof. The inhabitants are the moſt ſprightly of all Italy, and ſhow even their cheerful temper in private ſocieties, but on places of public reſort they are dumb. Yet what would you have them ſpeak, as politics are high treaſon, and the monopoly of the ſenate? Would you have them ſpeak of commerce? it leads to politics, ſo does every thing referring to legiſlature; ſo do the principal ſciences, as hiſtory, geography, &c. nay religion itſelf. Thus nothing is left to the Venetians, but the arts, and under this denomination I comprehend only the theatrical arts, as the others are now here, as well as in all other parts of Italy, upon their decline. Even of the former they get their fill during the carnival, and there remains nothing at all.

I beg leave to obſerve, that the ſuperior ſociableneſs of the moſt cultivated countries in Europe has no other epoch,

than the ſocial debates of political matters; nay I dare maintain, that this ſo much derided faſhion contributed to cultivation, and that from the manifold knowledge required, they in ſome reſpect are, and always will be the ſcale of cultivation among nations. Remember the time when the people of Athens and Rome interfered with public affairs, when the orations of great men operated moſt forcibly, gave new ideas and freſh knowledge to the ignorant, becauſe they were held often, and in the public market. When ceaſed that diffuſion of knowledge? with the breaking in of tyranny and barbariſm, under whoſe iron yoke the inhabitants of Europe groaned for ſo many centuries, till a more improved ſtate of ſcience by degrees made us again politicians. The Engliſh, the moſt enlightened nation on earth, as granted by Voltaire, Monteſquieu, Raynal, even by Linguet, are chiefly indebted for that ſuperiority to the great and active interference with

with public affairs, which generates national ſpirit, which, let it be ever ſo degenerate, cannot exiſt without multifarious mental accompliſhments. In Portugal and Sicily hardly any body reads newſpapers, hence the inhabitants of theſe ſtates look upon the proteſtants as a ſpecies of man-eaters; nay thouſands of the rabble are convinced, that the proteſtants, from a bodily mark, are like branded by God for everlaſting damnation.—Let him that wants farther proofs, caſt his eyes upon the Eaſt, whoſe ſlaviſh nations never thought of troubling their heads about the affairs of their country, and leſs ſtill about thoſe of foreign ſtates. The inhabitants of the greateſt oriental cities are often ignorant of the principal events that happen in the palace of their deſpots, who have, many times, in ſuch caſes puniſhed curioſity with death. I will now leave this perhaps not unſeaſonable ſubject, and return to Venice.

All the inhabitants of this city, who either are no plebeians, or do not wiſh to be numbered among them, wear red cloaks. This commodious faſhion is even imitated by the foreign ambaſſadors. It appears like a republican uniformity, though founded upon ſome other cauſe. The perſon wrapt up in ſuch a cloak, which muſt alſo muffle one half of the face, is dreſt as incognito, and exempt from all marks of politeneſs, which his ariſtocratic tyrants would otherwiſe exact. The latter alone wear no cloaks, but appear always in their black dreſs, much like bed gowns (*robes de chambre*) in order that no one under pretence of ignorance, ſhould miſbehave to them.—However, when they have a mind to make night rambles without being known, they uſe the red cloak. Recollecting that St. Mark's place is the only one in this great city deſtined for walking, to which people of every deſcription reſort in crowds, and where the poor nobles are encamped

encamped all day long, the reader muſt acknowledge the neceſſity of an expedient, to prevent all ceremonial politeneſs.

On ſolemn occaſions, the nobles go dreſſed in red, but their dreſs is exactly the model of the black one, and to this they add large wigs. If they dance in that dreſs, it really makes a moſt droll appearance. I was at a great ball, given in 1775, by Piſani, one of the richeſt nobles, upon his being elected to the office of *Procurator* of St. Mark's. It was a royal feaſt, and notwithſtanding the ſight being offended by this ſenatorial dreſs, ſo unfit for dancing, the ladies made ſufficient amends, being the moſt beautiful in Italy, and knowing how to dreſs in a moſt elegant ſtile.

Beſides beauty, the Venetian ladies boaſt alſo of other graces; they are very ſprightly and pleaſing chatterers; their dreſs conſiſts in a wear that keeps tight to

the body, and trails from behind; over it they throw a large black ſilk veil, which they tie together upon the back, ſo that face, boſom, arms and ſhape remain free, and from the moſt taſteful way of putting it on, makes a moſt graceful dreſs. But all their charms are half loſt, as the free commerce with ladies is not lawful to an Italian. The men muſt ſtick to the men, which augments the reſerve and ſerioufneſs of the ſex, properties common to the whole nation.

St. Mark's palace is certainly the fineſt Gothic edifice in Europe. Its external, peculiar, and elegant ſtructure is ſtriking, and the internal part ſplendid and majeſtic.— The great halls parade with pictures, referring to the hiſtory of the republic. One among them repreſents the extraordinary event of Frederick I. Emperor of Germany, who in 1175 was delivered at Venice, by Pope Alexander, from the church Ban, with great ſolemnities. That Emperor,

peror, according to hiſtory, is painted proſtrate before the pope, receiving his abſolution. When Joſeph II. viſited this palace, the Venetians out of delicacy, did not like to ſhow him that picture; they endeavoured, therefore, to engage his attention by other objects, but it was in vain, Joſeph perceived it, and being informed with the greateſt moderation of the ſubject, he, ſmiling, exclaimed: "*tempi paſſati!*" (paſt times!) There is, however, a thing in this palace which muſt make a moſt diſagreeable impreſſion upon an obſerving traveller, it is the filthineſs of the Venetians, whether or not belonging to the palace. Every one permits himſelf to do his buſineſs here. Not only the entrance, but the very ſtairs are like a ſink. Go where you will, you find whole rills of ſtinking water, and ſmell its noxious exhalations. The nobles, who honeſtly contribute their ſhare, never mind, and paddle through it with lifted-up

gowns. This naſtineſs ſpreads as far as the doors of the apartments.

Before the palace are the famous ſtone lions, with open jaws, through which the ſpies of the ſtate, or other informers of its inquiſition let paſs their reports. The republic has realized here the ideas of poets, who tranſport us into the golden times of fairies, when dragons and lions, apparently inanimate, though moſt formidable, were the guardians of enchanted caſtles. Even theſe lions, in a ſtrict ſenſe, protect the ariſtocratic ſenate, whoſe throne is St. Mark's palace. Through theſe quadrupeds numberleſs important diſcoveries have already been made, dangerous attempts ſtifled in embryo, and to this very hour their aſpect ſtrikes equally with fear and terror.

It is now a prevalent opinion of ſome, that this cuſtom is aboliſhed, that the jealous republic gets her reports by other means;

means; yet the ſuperſcription upon thoſe lions: "*Denunzie ſecrete*," (ſecret informations) with their communication to the lower department, confirms ſufficiently to what purpoſe they have formerly been uſed, and there remains a juſt doubt, whether this commodious cuſtom has been aboliſhed.

That part of St. Mark's place which leads to the harbour, is adorned with pillars, the one of a beautiful granite, the other only of common ſtone, which was imitated for the ſake of ſymmetry, becauſe that which was deſtined to have matched the former, and which conſiſted of granite too, fell into the ſea, through the awkwardneſs of thoſe who were to land it.—Both had been brought over from Conſtantinople, after the Venetians had taken that capital. Between theſe two pillars, which ſtand quite free, the malefactors are executed. This throws a notion of diſhonour upon the ſpace between them,

and you will never ſee people of genteel appearance, and leſs ſtill the nobles, paſs between them. Yet their beautiful ſituation, and the crowd, makes whole thouſands mindleſs of that ſcruple; they follow the example of foreigners who paſs between them.

The Iſle of Rialto lies amidſt the great number of iſlands, of which Venice does conſiſt, and is like the centre of the Venetian ſtate. Hither fled the firſt families, who left the continent when the Viſigoths made their irruption into Italy. Among them was Entinopus, an architect, a native of Candia, reſident at Padua, who took refuge from thoſe cruel enemies.—Rialto, the principal iſland in the *lacunas* (canals) was pitched upon as a reſidence for him and his followers, who amounted to twenty-four families. Here Entinopus built a church in honour of St. James, which is ſtill to be ſeen, alſo twenty-four houſes, or rather cottages, for himſelf and his

his companions, whoſe progeny moſtly governs the republic to this day. The famous bridge belonging to the iſland, was built by Palladio, and conſiſts of a ſingle arch, which goes over the great canal. It is built of pure marble, but its appearance is not ornamental, becauſe the unpoliſhed marble looks like common ſtone; the ugly ſhops that ſtand upon it, the great number of ſteps which muſt be aſcended and deſcended, and many other things, make it the moſt incommodious bridge that can be imagined. It owes its fame to a great arch, whoſe ſkilful ſtructure cannot, however, atone for that great defect—incommodiouſneſs.

Notwithſtanding the admirable ſituation of Venice, it makes no great impreſſion upon a ſtranger, as the infectious ſtink, inſeparable from the place, is for ſome time exceeding loathſome to thoſe who arrive. But by degrees the nerves of ſmell are hebetated, and this exhalation

which pervades the whole town, becomes ſupportable. It does not affect health, which is proved by the bills of mortality, proportionate to thoſe of other great cities. Notwithſtanding the cauſe of the increaſe of this bad ſmell makes the ſenate very uneaſy; for though the canals be moſt carefully cleanſed, the increaſe of the mud baffles all efforts, and the water lowers by degrees. In many places we find inconteſtable proofs of the former height of the water, which is an infallible *prognoſticon* of what is to come. Several of the learned ſay, that this unfortunate epoch will not exceed two hundred years. Then this ſo much-admired city is to become deſolate, our poſterity will go there to ſee it, as we now do with Pompeia, until the filth be all dried up, and another nation, undoubtedly with other manners and cuſtoms, and probably without an inquiſition, will take poſſeſſion of the magnificent ruins.

The

The Roman commonwealth could not have been more ſtrictly connected with the exiſtence of Rome, than the Venetian commonwealth with the city of Venice; as upon the latter, conſtitution, laws, the duration of ancient cuſtoms, and political maxims, in ſhort, every thing is built: objects, which in no commonwealth of the globe underwent as little alteration as here; but there has alſo never been one that maintained itſelf ſo long. It is, therefore, natural in the ſenate, to take ſo extraordinary a care for the laſting continuance of that city. Venice may be conſidered as an enormous ſtore-ſhip, to which nature and art have for ſo many years ſerved as an anchor. All the propoſals of able architects, tending to its preſervation, are carefully liſtened and frequently attended to. Expence in this point is no object. The chief expedients for cleanſing, now in uſe, are enormous machines, ſkilfully conſtructed, which ſwim upon the great canal, to carry away the filth. Theſe means

means, though efficient, fall ſhort of ſo great a purpoſe.

Near Paleſtrina, a ſmall maritime town, the Republic cauſes a wall to be erected within the ſea, as a dike againſt that formidable element. The works have been carried on for theſe many years, and according to the plan, the length of the wall is to be twelve Italian miles. A certain traveller (Bioernſtaehl) who received all reports, and ſet them down without any farther reflection, ſays in great earneſt, and without omitting the leaſt circumſtance, that every cubic foot of this wall coſts no leſs than twenty, and with materials about ſixty zechins. The reader, in conformity to this aſſertion, ought therefore to repreſent to himſelf a high and thick wall, twelve Venetian miles in length, and it will produce a greater ſum than there is gold and ſilver coin on earth. Yet I am aſſured, that by this time a third part of that ſtupendous work is finiſhed, which,

which, according to the learned Bioern-ſtaehl, muſt have coſt the Republic only the ſum of a thouſand millions of zechins within theſe twenty or thirty years. It is certain, however, that the expence is enormous, though perfectly juſtified by the greatneſs of the danger in which the ſtate ſeems to be involved.*

The evil was already ſo great in the ſixteenth century, as to threaten the republic with ruin. A Dominican friar ſaved the city, and by ſo great a merit, the Senator Conaro declared him publicly the ſecond founder of Venice. This man, even great in a friar's frock, was called Giocondo; he being not, by all, ſufficiently known, I will give a more minute account of him. He was a Venetian, entered the Order very early, and went afterwards to Rome to purſue his ſtudies. He learned the languages of the

* This work was firſt publiſhed in 1787. *Tranſlator.*

anci-

ancients, and was thoroughly verſed in the claſſics. Some time after he publiſhed the works of Vitruvius and Vegetius, with plates and commentaries of his own. His labour diſplayed his great genius for architecture, of which he ſoon exhibited a ſtriking ſpecimen. The great ſtone bridge at Verona was in danger of being deſtroyed by the river Addigio; they knew not how to ſecure the arches. Giocondo ſaid he had found the beſt means in the commentaries of Cæſar. He therefore made uſe of the ſame method which was adopted by that great general, in building a bridge over the Rhone. Giocondo's enterprize ſucceeded and built his fame. Lewis XII. King of France ſent for him to Paris, where, among other bridges, he built that of *Notre Dame*, which may ſtill be ſeen to this very hour. Soon after he did the above-mentioned great ſervice to his country. The waters of the Brenta brought continually ſand and filth into the canals, which

which increaſed to ſuch a degree, that it was apprehended they would ſoon be unfit for navigation. Giocondo had a canal dug, which conducted one part of the waters towards Chioggia, and cauſed the other to ſtream with ſuch rapidity into the *lacunas*, ſo as to cleanſe them entirely. One time, when the bridge of Rialto, beſides many others, were accidentally deſtroyed by fire, Giocondo was deſired to tender new plans for rebuilding them; he did ſo, but they were not attended to. This neglect made him fret to ſuch a degree, that he left his country ſoon after, and went to Rome, where he died in an advanced age, after having directed the building of St. Peter's, in concert with Raphaël and Sangallo.

The great number of bridges which join the iſlands together, are all ſingle arched, and without balluſtrade or rails. It is remarkable, that people are drowned ſo very rarely; this chiefly ariſes be-

cauſe

cauſe the Venetians, like the Italians in general, are very little given to drunkenneſs; an admirable quality in this city, where the inhabitants are bereft of ſo many amuſements. You will find here grown people who have never ſeen a horſe in their lives; there are ſome, however, uſed in riding ſchools. Thoſe of the people who never have been on the continent have no notion of coaches, waggons, carts, ploughs, gardens and a hundred other things that ſeem quite inſeparable from the cultivation of a nation.

The republic poſſeſſes, in a ſmall diſtrict, ſome very conſiderable towns, viz. Padua, Verona, Vincenza, Bergamo, and Breſcia. Padua, which has been celebrated for ſo many ages for her power, and as a ſeat of learning, exhibits now a diſmal image of change and inſtability to the eye of the traveller: the wretched ſtate of this town beggars all deſcription. To and fro you will find magnificent churches

churches and palaces, monuments of its former flouriſhing ſtate; but they are either ſituate in the fields, or in narrow windings and dirty ſtreets, which baffled all the ſkill of Palladio, ſo much exerted here by that great maſter. In thoſe obſcure ſtreets you ſee the poor, ragged, pale, and emaciated inhabitants, who, like as many ſpectres, ſeem to haunt thoſe walls. Add to this the dreſs—the men being wrapt up in frightful cloaks; the great number of monks, who are to be met here in whole groups; and the numerous convents, which continually ſtun the ears by the tolling of their bells: in ſhort, you find here nothing but what degrades humanity, and diſpels ſocial pleaſures. Ignorance has fixed her chief reſidence in this town, which goes by the name of the learned *(La dotta)*. Superſtition is not ſo great in Naples as in Padua, whoſe inhabitants have continually the tomb of St. Anthony before their eyes. The reverence ſhewn to that ſaint

is

is ſo great, that in general he only goes by the name of *The Saint* (*il Santo*). The church dedicated to him, is one of the moſt ſplendid in Italy, and was built by the celebrated Nicola da Piſa. It is chiefly remarkable for its moſt beautiful bas reliefs, which, for the moſt part, are the work of Nicola himſelf, and repreſent the miracles of that ſaint, and his preaching to the fiſhes. Notwithſtanding the poverty of this city, great treaſures have been laviſhed upon the tomb of the ſaint. Theſe treaſures ſurpaſs by far thoſe of Prague and Naples, which may be ſeen at the tombs of St. Nepomocene and St. Januarius.

There reigns a very ſtrange cuſtom at Padua, which is alſo uſual in ſome places in Lombardy. If a man cannot pay his debts, and is otherwiſe ſo poor, as not to be worth five *lires*,* he may free himſelf

* An Italian coin.

from

from all the demands of his creditors, by expoſing formally, before the court of juſtice, his great poverty. But with this declaration is connected a ceremony ſo extremely ſhameful, that people have rarely recourſe to that expedient. It conſiſts in the debtor's being obliged to ſit down, for one hour, with his *nude poſteriors* upon a ſtone ſtanding before the Townhouſe, and to be looked at in this poſture by the people, all the while he is ſurrounded by the ſbirrs. As this ceremony is looked upon as the very verge of infamy, and is as bad as if in other countries a man is branded with a red-hot iron, it takes place very rarely, it would otherwiſe be a daily ſhow in ſo poor a town as Padua, and loſe, of courſe, its effect.

Vincenza is the native town of Palladio, which he alſo embelliſhed with magnificent buildings. No monument of his is more remarkable than the Olympic theatre, which he built here at the deſire of

of a learned ſociety, that went by the name of the Olympian, and wiſhed for a model of a theatre of the ancients. Palladio took for pattern the theatre of Marcellus at Rome, and carried on his undertaking in a moſt excellent manner; unfortunately, however, he departed life before the building could be completed, and its neceſſary ornaments added. It was afterwards continued by Scamozzi, who managed it very unſkilfully. This edifice remains, however, the greateſt ornament of the town. Palladio wrote commentaries upon Vitruvius, Cæſar, and Polybius. But theſe works were never printed, and lay, perhaps, buried in ſome private library.

Notwithſtanding the ſmall extent of the Venetian territories, the cunning of the fineſt politics are made uſe of in governing them. Towns adjacent to one another are treated in a very different manner—a policy unparalleled in other European ſtates. Vincenza and Bergamo,

mo, the former of which ſubmitted freely to the republic, and the latter inhabited by an unruly and deſperate ſet of people, who are the moſt egregious banditti of all Italy, are treated with great lenity. This laſting gratitude towards Vincenza, reflects honour upon the ſenate; and it is alſo, among all towns, the moſt addicted to the ſenatorial ſway. With reſpect to Bergamo, the republic is not actuated by generoſity but by fear. The ſituation of that place, the character of the inhabitants, who are often found on the highway in troops and well armed, carrying ſmuggled goods, render neceſſary the indulgence of a weak ſtate. The ſame lenity is extended to the town of Breſcia, on account of its ſituation upon the frontiers of Milan. But the treatment of Verona is quite different, as they know it is very averſe to the Venetian conſtitution, and prefers and wiſhes to be governed by the houſe of Auſtria, whoſe ſtates are bordering upon the diſtrict

trict of Verona. The ſmall imperial town of Roveredo, ſituate at a ſmall diſtance from here, whoſe flouriſhing commerce continually ſtarts among the Veroneſe, the idea of what their town might be under ſuch a ſceptre, juſtifies ſtill more its diſinclination to the ariſtocratic government. For this reaſon, this city is treated without the ſmalleſt ſenſe of indulgence, as a place, whoſe period of ſubjection is looked upon as uncertain.

When the late emperor paſſed through Verona in 1771, a feaſt was given him, perhaps the only of its kind, and it ſtruck him with a moſt ſudden ſurprize. It was merely a bull-fight, but exhibited in the Roman amphitheatre, whoſe inſide, as is well known, retains ſtill the ancient ſtructure, and is carefully preſerved. It is called the *Arena*. Of all Roman antiquities, whoſe remains are ſtill extant in ſo many countries, none has withſtood time

time ſo much than this memorable edifice. Its form is oval, and the ſtructure ſimilar to the Coliſeum at Rome: its length 464 feet, and the breadth 367. It may contain 22000 ſpectators.

The late emperor beheld this amphitheatre with admiration; afterwards the governor of the town invited him to a play. The preparations were concealed from the emperor; he was conducted to that entrance which was the leaſt crowded by the people. Not expecting to ſee any thing uncommon; he mounted the old Roman ſtairs, and quite of a ſudden paſſed through an opening to his ſeat, where he ſaw, in ſo ſmall a ſpace, all the inhabitants of the town and the neighbouring villages, who filled the amphitheatre from the bottom to the very top: immediately they all roſe, and received Joſeph with an univerſal clapping of hands and burſts of applauſe—a ſight which quite enraptured the monarch.

Of all the cities in the Venetian territory, Padua, whoſe wretched ſtate has been deſcribed above, feels moſt the misfortune of an oppreſſive government. The higheſt impoſts, the moſt rigorous laws, inexorable puniſhment in caſe of petty offences, and hinderance from all meaſures to forward the welfare of the place. Hence ſprings the extreme poverty of that city, to which, in point of extent, few are equal in Italy, and whoſe population amounts to forty thouſand ſouls. Thus Venice avenges the troubles and dangers, which Padua, once flouriſhing and independent, cauſed her for ſo many centuries.

In the preſent political balance of Europe, Venice loſes every conſideration; and her long-preſerved independence is only founded upon the moderation of the powerful neighbour, who has her fate in his own hands.

SECT.

SECT. IV.

MILAN.—*Manners of the Milaneſe.—Nobility.—Love of a Country Life.—New Theatre.—Cathedral.—St. Charles Boromeus.—Sardinian Court.—Piedmont.—Character of the Piedmonteſe.—Flouriſhing State of Piedmont.—Government.—Nizza.—Military State of Sardinia.—Parallel between its Troops.—Royal Revenue.—Parma.—Placenza.—Ferrara.—Bologna.—Thefts rarely committed in Italy, and the reaſon why?—Bologneſe Nobility.—Univerſity.—River Rubicon.—Ancona.—Loretto.—The Holy Houſe.—Fanaticiſm of a great German Princeſs.*

NO part of Italy is more like a garden than Lombardy. That fine country is the moſt populated and moſt cultivated. Milan, its capital, is, after

Rome, the greateſt city in Italy: it is, however, not populous enough in proportion to its extent. From the moſt ancient records this city was remarkable for continually changing its governors. The manners of the different rulers have made impreſſion upon thoſe of the inhabitants, who diſtinguiſh themſelves from all other Italians. What is hardly perceptible in ſingle individuals, becomes ſtriking here in all. The Spaniards have left them a kind of *grandezza*, which is chiefly peculiar to the nobility. The French, by their continual wars, have refined the ſocial *ton* of the Milaneſe, promoted the intercourſe with the fair ſex, and introduced, in general, a certain degree of ſocial virtue, predominant no where elſe in Italy: the Auſtrians taught them hoſpitality and good nature, which they brought them from Vienna, the *emporium* of that godlike virtue.

A great

A great deal of good was done during the wiſe adminiſtration of count Firmian. His power was very great, yet no miniſter could ever make better uſe of it than he did. Even the haughty nobles acquieſced in his conduct, and entertained the higheſt regard for him. Theſe nobles, both numerous and rich, are uncommonly fond of pomp, and ſhew it in beautiful carriages, a great number of horſes, and running footmen. The latter conſider Milan as the only ſchool for their art, and ſupply not only a great part of Italy, but alſo the ſouthern provinces of Germany. The wages of theſe creatures are naturally ſmall in a place which is their ſtaple, and which abounds with them; for this reaſon, many a ſingle nobleman keeps three, four, or more of them. Their chief duty is to accompany their lord to the *Corſo*, a public walk where the nobility meet every day, if the weather is fair, not to walk about, but to ride up and down in their carriages. No converſation takes

place, except a few words, when the carriages meet one another. The only intent of theſe *walk-riders* is to ſee, or rather to be ſeen. This abſurd recreation is common to all the great cities of Italy.

The Milaneſe nobility alſo diſtinguiſh themſelves by their fondneſs of a rural life; in ſummer, the firſt families leave the capital, and ſpend the greateſt part of that fine ſeaſon, and the whole autumn on their beautiful country ſeats, which are, for the moſt part, ſituated in a charming diſtrict called *Monte di Brianza*. One part of theſe country ſeats goes by the name of *Capucinas*, becauſe they are built upon the plan of the Milaneſe convents of Capuchins. They have a great number of little rooms in form of cells, deſtined for the reception of their friends, who, in great numbers, travel from one *Capucina* to another, and enjoy thoſe hoſpitable conveniencies.

The

The new theatre at Milan is looked upon as the largeſt and fineſt in all Italy, but in the remoteſt part of the houſe, it is impoſſible either to ſee or to hear. The boxes of the nobility are as large as apartments, and furniſhed moſt ſumptuouſly with valuable tapeſtry, chandeliers, looking-glaſſes, and ſophas, according to the taſte and means of the proprietor, which diverſity has a very fine effect: each box has a private cloſet adjoining to it, ſome of them have two. When the theatre was firſt built, the ſubſcription for the right or property of a box, amounted to two, three, and ſome to four thouſand ſcudi. But the annual ſubſcriptions for the benefit of the actors is but trifling. I ſaw here the fineſt theatrical decorations I ever beheld in Italy: they belonged to a ballet, intitled Cleopatra, in which, inſtead of dancing, they jumped. I never ſaw a more wretched pantomime, repreſenting an heroical ſubject: it was the greateſt parody upon that event ſo famous

in hiſtory, which, by the death of Cleopatra and Antony, gave a new governor to the world. The artiſt had made uſe of all his art to conduct the ſpectator's mind into the ſubterranean vaults of Alexandria, and he ſucceeded moſt wonderfully. But the grimaces of the tumblers did away the ſhort illuſion, which in a well-acted tragedy, would have been laſting and enrapturing.

The ſo much-celebrated cathedral has nothing ſtriking: its chief excellence conſiſts in a great number of ſtatues, and a treaſure of marble. They are continually working at it, not ſo much to complete the building, as to repair what has fallen. The inſide of the church, or rather the building, ſuch as it is now, was already completed in the fifteenth century by Cezariani, after the famous architect, Bramante, the maſter of the great Raphaël, had examined the ſtructure.

The

The tutelar ſaint of Milan is St. Charles Boromeus. If there is one in the Roman legend worthy of reſpect, it is certainly this ſaint, who, beſides his piety and godlineſs, acquired a juſt title to the reverence of his countrymen, by a moſt active life, full of beneficence and generous deeds, the effects of which are felt to this very day. His riches enabled him to make many foundations, and to perform a number of noble deeds. At the early age of twenty-two he was created archbiſhop, and died in his forty-ſecond year. His death was the deſpair of all Milan. The fame of the deceaſed, the entreaties of his fellow-citizens, and the liberalities of his opulent friends, made the papal ſee recede from a cuſtom, which will not ſuffer a ſaint to be canonized till fifty years after his deceaſe. His name, however, graced the Roman legend after a ſpace of thirty years. His mother was then living, ſhe was a lady of a very advanced age, and ſhared the pleaſure, which has never

been the lot of a chriſtian woman, to ſee her ſon reverenced on the altars of churches, and genuflections made before his ſhrine.

In 1756 the MSS. works of Bramante upon architecture, painting, and the arts in general, were found in a private library. They were written in Italian, and I doubt whether they are tranſlated.

PIEDMONT.

The Sardinian court enjoys long ſince the glory of being a pattern in politics, finances, and military affairs. Indeed the crown, which this little ſtate acquired by all the arts of politics, and the reſpectable appearance it kept up ever ſince, are proofs of an excellent policy. Such a ſyſtem wanted a great number of troops, and

and to maintain them a well ordained ſtate œconomy, all which are found here. The king himſelf is a great œconomiſt, and his court diſtinguiſhes itſelf by an excellent parſimony. The nobility are in no great city of Italy, as poor as they are here, for this reaſon they are content with ſmall perquiſites. Their miniſters, reſident at foreign courts, are treated in proportion, for inſtance, the envoys to Holland and Genoa have no more than three thouſand rix dollars per annum.

No nobleman dares travel without expreſs leave from the king; he muſt alſo obtain the latter to enter foreign ſervice. To lend money out of the country is entirely prohibited. The nobility is ſaleable as in all other parts of Italy. If a foreigner deſires to ſettle in the country, he muſt go through the formality of naturalization, and take the oath of fidelity and allegiance.

The character of the Piedmonteſe is remarkable for a gravity, ſo uncommon to other Italians. It is a ſingular circumſtance, that Piedmont neither in ancient nor modern times, as far as the annals of that country can be traced, has ever produced a poet, nor was there ever an *improviſatore* (extempore poet) born here.—They are even reproached with inſenſibility at the ſight of the moſt beautiful pictures of Arioſt and Taſſo, productions which enrapture other Italians. They have nevertheleſs cultivated ſome ſciences with no inconſiderable ſucceſs, viz. mathematics, phyſic and law. But their artiſts cannot keep pace with thoſe of other Italian provinces; yet they paſs for the beſt gameſters in Europe.

The nobility being poor, and not fond of ſciences, every nobleman flocks to the military ſtandard. Their ignorance is ſo great, that few among them can ſpeak Italian with propriety, and ſmaller ſtill is the

the number of thoſe whoſe underſtand Latin. The other gentry follow their example, for this reaſon Piedmont belongs to the *ſuperlative* of Italian bigotry. They alſo diſtinguiſh their character, as great admirers of the French, inveterate enemies of the Genoeſe, and deſpiſers of all other Italian races, who, on that head, do not neglect to be even with them.

Otherwiſe the people of Piedmont paſs for the Gaſcons of Italy. It is true, that they make too much of their own good qualities, though well founded in other reſpects. Their country is as much the moſt flouriſhing in Italy, as it excels other ſtates in activity and induſtry. The ſame may be ſaid of the good order which reigns in all the branches of adminiſtration; even their police, ſo bad in other provinces in Italy, becomes remarkable, though ſubject to very great defects.—Thus among many other things, the capital, for inſtance, is not lighted at night.

They,

They, however, practiſe cleanlineſs, a thing ſo rare beyond the Alps, and the king ſets the example in his own palace. The uniformity of buildings ſeems to be at home here, and the ſtructure of the capital is a pattern, which happily has not been imitated any where elſe; for in ſpite of its being ſtriking at firſt, it never fails to diſguſt ſoon after. In the ſtreet of the Po, the fineſt in Turin, the houſes are all of one height, which undoes all that can pleaſe the eye.

The flouriſhing ſtate of Piedmont depends chiefly upon the ſilk trade. The Engliſh alone purchaſe annually a quantity of ſilk, which amounts to 200,000l. ſterling, and moſtly pay for it in ready money, becauſe the duty on Engliſh commodities is ſo high, that they may be looked upon little better than prohibited. Should the Engliſh one day be able to find a better market for purchaſing that article, the

trade

trade of Piedmont would not only ſuffer a mortal blow, but it would totally put a period to its flouriſhing ſtate.

The tobacco manufactures belong excluſively to the king; hence this commodity is ſold very dear, and the laws againſt ſmugglers are cruel to an extreme. He that carries on the tobacco trade ſecretly, is condemned to the gallies for life.

Notwithſtanding the ſuperiority of adminiſtration in this country, public and expenſive undertakings are rarely countenanced. For inſtance, a bridge over the river Var, and a highway from Nizza to Genoa, would ſave travellers the trouble of paſſing the Alps, and make them prefer ſuch a road, which would be far more commodious, and contribute to render Nizza ſtill more flouriſhing.

This

This city is a great deal viſited by the Engliſh, and beſides the commerce in ſilk, the reſidence of thoſe travellers is the chief reſource of its inhabitants. Notwithſtanding this, the conveniency of ſuch affluent gueſts is little conſulted, though they often reſide here ſix months, nay ſome for whole years, for the benefit of their health. There are no private furniſhed lodgings to be got, and ſtrangers are forced to rent whole houſes, deſtitute of all furniture. The fine climate of the country is moſtly owing to the Alps, which border upon the ſea, forming an amphitheatre, which encompaſſes the whole diſtrict, and keeps off the north winds.

In 1744 a battle was fought at a ſmall diſtance from Nizza, between the united French and Spaniſh armies, and a large body of Sardinian troops poſted upon ſteep heights. The allies were repulſed with the loſs of four thouſand men. Upon the Piedmonteſe peaſants burying the

dead, they found a great number of Spaniſh ſoldiers, that had been circumciſed; this confirms the report, that Spain is ſtill full of unknown jews, who are very numerous among all claſſes of people, and wear the mark of chriſtians only for fear of the inquiſition.

People uſually entertain very unjuſt notions about the power of this ſtate, and many newſpaper writers, when the topic is about alliances, uſe to add the King of Sardinia, as requiſite to preſerve the balance among the powers of Europe; a prince, who without ſubſidies, and after having put a proper garriſon in all his fortreſſes, has but a few thouſand men to form a camp. This error proceeds from the predominant prejudice of the excellence of the Sardinian troops. A man of competent judgement will find them in fact, but little better than other Italian ſoldiers. They neither diſtinguiſh themſelves by martial ſpirit, nor by high notions of honour,

nour, leſs ſtill by manœuvres and the knowledge of the tactics, but by their exterior alone. They have a certain order and regularity unknown to the military of other Italian ſtates: to this muſt be added punctual payment. The great number of fortreſſes are the natural cauſes of that order, which gave to many a traveller the higheſt notions of the military ſkill of the Piedmonteſe, eſpecially when they compared them with their neighbours; this great number of fortreſſes makes alſo many an officer apply to, and excel in the art of fortification: yet all this cannot entitle the Sardinian troops, to whom I cannot deny courage, to the epithet of *excellent*; and I believe, that the whole army of his Sardinian Majeſty, which does not exceed much twenty thouſand men, would hardly dare to face long, and in the open field, the daily parade of Berlin. Many will look upon the expreſſion of the parade of Berlin as a hyperbola. It would be unbecoming an author, who aims

aims to be true in his judgements, to make uſe of figuratives in ſerious ſubjects, when a conſiderable ſtate is the queſtion. Therefore I declare to have written down the above expreſſion after a mature deliberation. The reader ought only to know what the parade of Berlin conſiſts of: it makes the greateſt part of the moſt numerous garriſon in Europe, which is daily aſſembled in a great number of detachments. Thoſe detachments, if united, preſent a conſiderable corps, which in point of numbers alone, might have decided in former ages, the fate of whole provinces upon the field of battle. The garriſon itſelf conſiſts of thoſe ſelect regiments, whom all nations unanimouſly declare the beſt warriors in the world.

So much for my juſtification, by which I endeavour to make it appear, that I have not undervalued the army of the king of Sardinia, which however regular, is at preſent unaccuſtomed to war,

war, and in many reſpects deficient in military accompliſhments. Notwithſtanding, this monarch is a conſiderable ally for any prince who is engaged in war in the northern parts of Italy; in ſpite of the ſmallneſs of his army, he is not eaſy to be overcome, on account of the great number of fortreſſes in the country, which will often fruſtrate, to a conqueror, all the advantages he may have gained in the open field; it is theſe fortreſſes which render the king of Sardinia the moſt formidable prince of Italy, but this is nothing in the balance of political Europe. In ſpite of the ſmall number of the Sardinian troops, there were ſeventy generals among them about four years ago.

Though the title of a King implies a much dignified meaning, it does not add the ſmalleſt increaſe to his power, which ſolely depends upon the value of his ſtates. The kingdom of Sardinia of itſelf, fetches hardly any thing to the royal treaſure, as its

its ſmall revenues will hardly reach to defray the civil and military exigencies. The ſame is to be ſaid of Savoy, ſo that every thing comes from Piedmont; hence it may be ſaid, that the duke maintains the king. The revenues of this country are very conſiderable, but not ſo much as to enable the king to act a part of his own upon the political theatre of Europe. The royal revenues in general do not exceed five millions of rix dollars, and the population of Piedmont does not quite amount to 15,00,000 ſouls.

PARMA AND PLACENZA.

THE fertility ſo peculiar to all Lombardy is alſo to be met with in the dutchies of Parma and Placenza, ſituated in the centre of the country. Neither population nor induſtry are very great here, but the Spaniſh money is the more abundant.

dant. What diſtinguiſhes Parma are the maſter-pieces of Corregio, which embelliſh the altars and palaces. Proud of the works of that great artiſt, the people of this town do not care to ſhine in other arts, and architecture is greatly neglected. He that conſiders this city for its antiquity, extent, population, and as the reſidence of a prince, muſt be aſtoniſhed to find ſo ſmall a number of palaces and churches, which are ſo numerous throughout Italy.

The celebrated opera houſe of this place is the ſtudy of all architects, for it has the very peculiar property, that every word ſpoken at the greateſt diſtance of its enormous circumference, is heard in every part of the audience with equal loudneſs. The rules of ſound, with which we are ſtill but little acquainted, cannot have been the guide of the maſter who built this houſe; it may not, therefore, be wrong to ſuppoſe, that ſome latent accidental cauſe has produced this effect. It

is

is inconteſtably the largeſt theatre in Europe, but the extraordinary expences requiſite for acting a play, has not made it ſerve its purpoſe for theſe forty years and upwards.

The want of ſtately edifices in Parma is moſt abundantly made up in the ſo thinly populated city of Placenza. It is, without contradiction, the fineſt of all Lombardy. No one will look upon it as a provincial town, but hold it to be the reſidence of ſome great monarch. The houſe of Farneſe, which formerly reſided here with kingly ſplendor, left every where behind traces of its love of arts and magnificence. Here we ſee long and wide ſtreets filled with ſuperb palaces and public edifices, and ſquares embelliſhed with fountains. Upon the principal ſquare there are two equeſtrian ſtatues of the famous general Alexander Farneſe, and his ſon Ranuccio, admired by every connoiſſeur, as maſter-pieces of art. The churches

are alſo replete with the productions of great maſters, ſuch as Carrache, Guerchino, and others.

It was in the vicinity of this town, that the famous cardinal Alberoni ſpent in retirement the latter part of his life, after having acted ſo ſhining a part in Europe.

FERRARA.

A TRAVELLER is terrified, when upon leaving the town of Lombardy he enters Ferrara, which belongs to the pope. This large and well-built place appears as if its inhabitants had been ſwept away by ſome peſtilential ſcourge. It is full of beautiful palaces, and elegant public edifices, but all deſolate. It might be well to write upon the gates, *this town is to be let.* Hiſtory tells us, that it was for-

formerly in a flouriſhing ſtate of population, but now there remains but the buildings. The ſight of people is rare, and hundreds of houſes ſtand empty; it would be difficult to find a more cogent proof of the fatal conſequences of a bad government. Travellers ſeldom ſtay long, but haſte away as ſoon as they have paid their tribute of reverence to the memory of the immortal poet Arioſto, whoſe tomb is here. Taſſo too wrote his excellent poem in this place. Thus Ferrara can boaſt of the enviable honour, that two extraordinary poems, reſerved for immortality, took birth within her walls.

The inhabitants, not excluding the loweſt plebeian, have the liberty of wearing a ſword. This egregious prerogative makes all journeymen exerciſe themſelves in fencing, hence Ferrara ſupplies all neighbouring provinces with fencing-maſters.

BOLOGNA.

NOT far from here lays Bologna, a city in a much better condition, becauſe its government is not quite papal. This great and populous place is remarkable as the only one in all Europe, which maintains a republican form of government under a ſovereign prince.* The power of the Roman legate, who reſides here as governor, with a great deal of ſplendor, and has life guards, and a court of his own, is very much circumſcribed, becauſe almoſt every thing depends upon the ſenate. The latter ſend their ambaſſador to Rome, who has the ſame prerogatives as the miniſters of other powers. The ſituation of the city of Bologna, and its great

* Neufchatel cannot in the leaſt be compared to it by perſons who are acquainted with the conſtitution of this principality.

dif-

diſtance from the territories of the pope, are the cauſes of her enjoying her own liberties, which the pope cannot take away.—He would be as little able to ſecure himſelf the poſſeſſion of Ferrara, ſhould the houſe d'Eſte expoſe its well-founded pretenſions to this principality.

The nobility are very numerous here, becauſe thoſe popes who were natives of Bologna, created ever ſo many princes, marquiſſes, and counts of their native place. In few European cities people live ſo extravagantly. It may be ſaid, that Bologna is the ſtaple of ſenſual pleaſures, of muſic and devotion; becauſe the latter paired with ſuperſtition is inſeparable in Italy from a diſſolute courſe of life. Each ſtreet-corner has an altar, each altar an image, and each image works its miracles. This, as well as many other cities in Lombardy, has covered porticos on both ſides of the ſtreets; though they keep off the ſun and rain, they, however,

cauſe a deal of miſchief: they deform the ſtreets and make them narrow, hide the beauties of architecture, which are loſt to the eye, and on that account the middle pavement is totally neglected, and filled with a perpetual mud. The porticos likewiſe turn out very dangerous during night, in ſuch towns as are not lighted, and give free play to murderers and robbers. The former are more frequently to be met with than the latter. I have taken pains to ſearch the cauſe of this, it being the caſe all over Italy, a country where poverty preſſes ſo hard, and where banditti may be hired for a trifle.—There is no other reaſon, but becauſe the the thief and robber, by his father confeſſor, is ſtrongly exhorted to make reſtitution of the ſtolen property, and ſuſpended from abſolution till ſuch time as he has made it; whereas the aſſaſſin, whether ſentenced to die, or to the gallies, or ſet at liberty, receives, without any difficulty, and in the beſt form, a free remiſſion of the

the moſt heinous crime that ſullies human nature.

Bologna has a great treaſure of paintings, and other works of art; but the palaces and churches have but little to engage attention. The beſt, if compared to thoſe of Rome, Florence, Genoa, and Venice, are downright bad; except that of St. Petronius, in which the famous meridian of Caſſini may be ſeen, and which was again repaired about the middle of this century. Bologna is the mart of all Italian muſicians, caſtratos, and comedians, out of employ. Application is made hither from all countries, for people of that deſcription. The muſical performances in churches are very frequent here. The Bologneſe theatres can be reckoned among the beſt in Italy, and are the cheapeſt in Europe.

Bologna boaſts of being the moſt ancient univerſity in Europe, and of poſſeſſing men of greater learning than Pa-

dua, Pavia, and Sienna: I ſhall not enter into the merits of this pretenſion. The better ſort of people in Bologna are reputed as more addicted to reading of books than other Italians. Bologna derived its greateſt ſplendor in our times from the three ſiſters Zanotti, who were all poëteſſes, and from the celebrated Laura Baſſi, who at the early age of eighteen, received the doctor's hat, and read lectures.

The eſtabliſhment which goes by the name of the Bologneſe Inſtitute, and is ſo much extolled in Italy, conſiſts of a vaſt collection of what belongs to each ſcience or art in particular. It is properly ſpeaking a Cyclopœdia of the ſenſes. The library contains rare things, the principal of which conſiſt in folios of natural hiſtory, wherein the productions of the three reigns of nature are maſterly painted in colours. To it belongs alſo a cabinet of natural hiſtory, an aſtronomical obſerva-

tory,

tory, an anatomical theatre, and all kinds of models of art, &c.

Pope Lambertini, a Bologneſe, who died in 1758, is the founder of this Muſeum, and neither ſpared money nor pains to complete it: his intention was not only to do a good ſervice to the univerſity, but even to bring it into a moſt flouriſhing ſtate. This intention was certainly excellent; but a great deal more is required to ſpread knowledge, or rather to plant it in a ſoil where it cannot thrive. A modern writer very ingeniouſly obſerves, that the tree of ſcience has a quite different growth from the trees in a pleaſure garden. In Bologna this outward ſhow is a real bauble; nor did ever ſage ſtep forth from this ſcientific Trojan horſe.

The river Rubicon, ſo famous in the hiſtory of Rome, runs here between the towns of Ravenna and Rimini; but its preſent name is Piſatello.

Under a wiſe government Ancona might be the greateſt trading town in Italy, as it formerly was one of the chief cities in Europe. There are many traces left of her former importance, and it is ſtill very commercial; but all this is nothing, compared to Ancona in her ancient ſtate. It is the only town belonging to the pope, that has a certain number of manufactures. Here we find a peculiar induſtry and activity, to which ſouthern Italy is a ſtranger: the nobility are not aſhamed to follow commerce, and the richeſt families of the country are alſo the richeſt merchants. The very jews, who are ſo poor in Rome, and live as it were in a priſon, do diſtinguiſh themſelves here by opulence, and enjoy great liberties. This induſtry, ſo advantageous for the papal treaſure, cauſed Ancona to be declared a free port, which happened about fifty years ago. The city contains ſtill a great number of antiquities, among which is the marble dike, erected in the harbour

harbour by order of the Roman Emperor Trajan; in the middle ſtands the well-known triumphal arch of that prince, which has been tolerably well preſerved.

LORETTO.

LORETTO preſents the ſingular ſpectacle of a conſiderable city, wholly maintained by ſuperſtition. The enormous number of pilgrims and travellers, who viſit the Holy Houſe, the great number of dealers in relics, the merchants of roſaries and ſcapularies, furniſh the means of ſubſiſtence to the indigent inhabitants of this place, who would otherwiſe ſtarve amidſt all the riches heaped up here. There are ſhops where images and medals of the Virgin are ſold, which, in the opinion of the devotees, derive a peculiar virtue from having touched the Holy Houſe. I ſhall not enter into a deſcrip-

tion of the ſo called Holy Houſe, it being a theme exhauſted by other travellers, as well as the viſitors, who drag themſelves about upon their knees, a ſcene ſo ſtrange to a travelling proteſtant. But theſe good people are rewarded for their trouble by the pleaſing devout ſenſations which the Holy Houſe excites in them, and which often manifeſt themſelves in tears of joy, to which a common obſerver is certainly a ſtranger.

A great German princeſs,* who travelled in Italy about fourteen years ago, fell alſo, upon viſiting the Holy Houſe, into a fit of myſtic ſentiments; ſhe communicated it to her lady in waiting, who being a moſt accompliſhed woman did not find herſelf pleaſed in a cavern whoſe air was filled with the evaporations of devout crowds, and impregnated with the ſmoke of a great number of lamps: however

* Mary Thereſa, late queen of Hungary, mother to the late emperor Joſeph II.

the

the Holy Houſe foſtered moſt ſurpriſingly the pious faith of that illuſtrious viſitor, who having a ſore leg ſome years after, had her wounds dreſſed not only with proper plaiſters, but alſo little images were applied, to which ſhe aſcribed a peculiar virtue for having touched the holy chimney of Loretto.

The treaſures are kept here in a great magnificent hall in large preſſes. I muſt premiſe, that ſeveral of the precious jewels offered to the Virgin have been prudently changed; nevertheleſs the great number of real jewels remaining, beſides immenſe loads of gold and ſilver, form ſtill an enormous treaſure, perhaps the greateſt which devotion did ever amaſs upon the globe. Prudent and reſolute pirates would have no great difficulties to encounter, in fetching away theſe riches. It is really inconceivable that the corſairs of Barbary have never made an attempt of this kind. The city has a garriſon of

500 paltry ſham ſoldiers, prepared for no defence, and whoſe reſiſtance, if the attack was made by night, would avail nothing. There are, however, ſignals to bring the whole country into motion, in ſimilar emergencies; but this precaution would alſo prove fruitleſs. If the buſineſs were conducted with requiſite prudence and expedition, I maintain that the enterprize would not fail; and that the preſervation of the treaſures at Loretto is only due to ignorance in geography, a ſcience to which the barbarian pirates are utter ſtrangers. Should ever the Engliſh take it into their heads to commence hoſtilities with the holy See, their privateers would ſurely find the way to the holy houſe of Loretto, which lies at a very ſmall diſtance from the ſea, and nothing would be more eaſy than to make a deſcent in armed ſloops.

SECT.

SECT. V.

FLORENCE.—*Nobility.*—*Army.*—*Navy.*—*Theatre.*—*Language.*—*Literature.*—*National conceit.*—*Arts.*—*Gallery.*—*Florentine waxworks and anatomical preparatives.*—*Palace of Pitti.*—*Public edifices.*—*Piſa.*—*Cathedral.*—*Hanging tower.*—*Holy churchyard.*—*Algarotti's epitaph.*—*Bridge.*—*Baths.*—*Univerſity.*—*Sienna.*—*Leghorn.*—*Trade.*—*Project of rebuilding the temple of Jeruſalem.*—*Ruſſians at Leghorn, and their conduct.*—*An anecdote never printed before, relating to a moſt extraordinary adventure.*—*Quarentine.*—*Coffee houſes.*—*Special hoſpitality.*

TUSCANY, under the preſent government, is the happieſt country in Italy. Wiſe laws, a flouriſhing commerce,

merce, and an increaſing cultivation under a fair climate: but the Tuſcans are far from being ſenſible of their happineſs. How much does not their prince excel the beſt of the houſe of Medicis! though he is not attended by ſo brilliant a train of arts as Coſmus in his immortal century, he nevertheleſs ſurpaſſes him by his extenſive knowledge and his zealous care for the welfare of his people, which are his paſſions. Future generations will reap the fruits of his excellent eſtabliſhments and laws, and erect monuments in their hearts to the wiſdom of Leopold.* It is remarkable, that this prince, only a few years ſince, knows and values the fine arts: entirely occupied with the government of his ſtate, and the uſeful arts and ſciences, he looked upon his precious gallery with indifference; he made no diſpoſition to its advantage, nor honoured it with viſits, except ſuch as were ex-

* Now emperor of Germany and king of Hungary.

acted by etiquette in the preſence of illuſtrious gueſts. This coldneſs made often ſigh the lover of arts, and appeared ſtrange to travellers. For inſtance, the groupe of Niobe with her children, ſo much admired, which was taken in 1771 from the palace of Medicis at Rome, and brought to Florence, had been ſtanding for many years in the palace of Pitti, in a mean room, among old furniture, and waited long for a worthier place: at laſt it obtained one, when the fate of the fine arts took a better turn in Florence. The grand duke, by freſh acquirements of knowledge, has probably learned the high value of arts, being but ſhortly become their moſt zealous promoter.

The notion of ſeeing an uncommonly fine city, a notion with which travellers come uſually to Florence, deceives thoſe whoſe expectations are too ſanguine, and who have ſeen others. It is impoſſible that a man of ſound judgment, who knows

knows Europe as a traveller, can ſpeak with exceſſive admiration of the beauty of this city, which, though deſerving all praiſe, is, however, not matchleſs. It is not the number of fine ſtatues diſperſed through it, but injudiciouſly placed, and of courſe loſt to the eye, which make alone the beauty of a town. The ſo much boaſted large free ſtone pavement is good, yet greatly inferior in point of commodiouſneſs to that of the London ſtreets; nay not better than in Venice, Genoa, and other towns of Italy. Here are no great and wide ſtreets, no ſplendid palaces; in ſhort, no ſtriking façades of edifices, except a few, viz. the cathedral, the *Batiſterio*, in which all the children of the town are chriſtened, ſome other churches, and a fine bridge upon the river Arno: if we add to this the ſtatues above mentioned, we have traced all the beauty of Florence. The great ſquare before the old palace of the grand duke *(palazzo vechio)* is the moſt unſeemly

ſeemly of all, notwithſtanding the many fine ſtatues and groups that ſtand upon it, and form a moſt diſagreeable contraſt with that mean Gothic maſs. The remainder of the ſquare is beſet with private houſes and the ſo called *Logia*, which is deſtined as a place of meeting for merchants. Under the arcades are expoſed ſome of the nobleſt productions of the chiſſel. The proſpect of Florence is not fine, take it from what ſide you pleaſe, even including the terraces of the gardens of Boboli, which command a view upon the city. The adjacent landſcapes are, however, charming, chiefly that which lends the eye to the valley of the Arno, is full of hillocks and vineyards; but the town ſhares but little of that proſpect. This, this is Florence, that wondrous beautiful city, of which one of her grand dukes uſed to ſay, that it ſhould be ſhewn to ſtrangers on ſundays only. Such a gaſconade may have taken in the ſixteenth century, when Italy ſaw the

arts

arts in the cradle in all neighbouring countries, and the fineſt towns in Europe were filled with wooden houſes. But the times are materially changed.

Although the Florentine nobles have been rich in the times of the firſt Medicis, they are now poor. In thoſe times they applied to commerce, which alone brought the ſtate to ſuch a pitch of greatneſs; but long ſince this ſource of wealth has been deſpiſed; and a Florentine nobleman would think himſelf loſt of honour, were he to follow the great Coſmus and the late duke, who amaſſed conſiderable treaſures in following commercial concerns. It might be ſuppoſed that the richer part of this nobility would at leaſt advance money to the trade of Leghorn, which offers ſuch great emoluments; nevertheleſs a ſimilar occurrence was unheard of even a few years ago; yet they will enter into partnerſhip with retailers in Florence, and are ſo condeſcending

deſcending as to ſell wine by bottles in their own palaces. The expences of the nobility, though not very ſhining, are by no means proportionate to their income. There has been a project on the carpet to reform luxury, and if it be true, that luxury enriches a great ſtate and ruins a ſmall one, ſimilar laws will not fail producing the moſt favourable effects in this country.

In order to remedy this evil, the grand duke adopted very prudent means in 1782. They did not conſiſt in laws, but in proclamations addreſſed to his people, and followed by his own example. Nobody, as he expreſſes himſelf, will be more welcome at his court, than in a common decent attire; he has laid this down as a maxim, in promotions to offices and dignities. He recommends the rich to ſhow their ſplendor in encouraging arts, manufactures, agriculture, and in performing good actions. Even the tribunals of Tuſcany re-

received wiſe mandates, the appearance of which was very extraordinary in ſuch a country as Italy. The grand duke deſires his courts, chiefly the criminal ones, not to decide too freely upon the liberties of men; to ſhow humanity in their examinations, and precautions in ſuffering oaths to be taken; to proceed to trials as ſoon as poſſible, to mitigate the ſufferings of the unhappy priſoners, and not to let them languiſh longer than neceſſary in their place of confinement. He has alſo hemmed the too extenſive prerogatives of the chace, which he looks upon as a barbarous ſport.

This praiſe-worthy prince had continually the weal of his ſubjects at heart, and it makes his deareſt and moſt indefatigable concern. He promotes agriculture in various manners, has canals cleaned, dikes and highways made, which are much wanting ſtill in this otherwiſe diſtinguiſhed province. A new one is

now

now digging, which leads to Ancona, and another to Parma will ſoon be begun. It is a peculiar trait of the grand duke's, that he only lives upon his Auſtrian and Spaniſh private revenues, and uſes thoſe of Tuſcany for the good of the country; they amount to about 2,400,000 rix dollars. The lottery makes a great branch of it, and fetches no leſs than 175,555 rix dollars per annum. On this account Leopold cannot ſuppreſs it, without weakening conſiderably the reſources of the country, and ſuffering them to be enjoyed by the Genoeſe.

Tuſcany is at preſent in no apprehenſion of a war, in which caſe it would not want for troops, but its preſent military eſtabliſhment is very inſignificant, for there are not quite two thouſand men, and only one general; the navy conſiſts of a couple of ſloops of war, and three gallies to protect the harbour. A few years ago a militia has been eſtabliſhed of the citizens of

almoſt

almoſt every town in Tuſcany, and the bands of Florence, Piſa, Sienna, and Arezzi, are upon a very good footing.

The grand duke is no particular friend to theatres, yet he prefers comedies to operas, and a French troop of comedians is ſometimes ordered to act at Florence. This alſo happened at my laſt ſtay, in 1780. The company was as good as any to be found in the French provinces, but they acted before empty ſeats, and without the ſupport of the prince and the liberalities of the nobility, would have been ſtarved. The fooliſh cuſtom to play at cards during the operas, is here as common as in other cities of Italy: the noiſe which it cauſes, and the continual rambling, from one box into another, annihilate frequently the pleaſure of the other ſpectators whilſt the beſt ariettas are ſung. It is bon ton among the Italian ladies, to pay no attention to the plays, they leave this to the wives of the tradeſ-

men.

men. Some even affect the greateſt inſenſibility at the moſt beautiful ſongs, which are ſung by the beſt ſingers, and chooſe the moment when all is ſilence, to have a loud converſation. The ballets only, can make them leſs indifferent; their charms are irreſiſtible and they will be attentive to them, ſhould even the moſt inſignificant dances be repeated for ſeveral days together. Theſe ballets are very bad. As the pantomime is without caricature, and all the talents which form a great actor, utterly unknown in Italy, no expectation can therefore be formed from the Italian dances: in the comical parts their geſts are caricature, and in the ſerious nothing but grins. Their whole art is confined to jumps and indecent poſtures, but there are no traces of the art of dancing, of which Noverre has laid down ſo fine a theory, and confirmed it by admirable practice. Theſe ballets laſt for whole hours, and the Italians cannot be tired with

ſeeing

ſeeing them. It is a pity that upon ſuch mean amuſements they laviſh ſometimes the moſt beautiful decorations, really worthy of admiration.

The ruling paſſion of the Florentines, as of all other Italians, is ſinging and buffoon tricks. They hate every ſort of theatrical production, that requires thought, and put up with all that moves their groſs ſenſes. During my ſtay, *Didone abandonnata*, (the forſaken Dido) written by Metaſtaſio, was to be acted; but the firſt ſinger, who had the part of Dido, was ſuddenly taken ill, this did not hinder the performance of the opera: Dido was left out, and they acted Dido without Dido. If the opinion of a certain philoſopher be true, who ſays, that, in order to learn to know a nation, one ought only to examine their theatre, we cannot form a very advantageous opinion of the Italians.

Love

The love of poetry is a characteriſtic trait of the Tuſcans, it was tranſmitted to them by their anceſtors; there are alſo more improviſatori, (extempore poets) to be met with here than in any other province of Italy. The poem of Dante was ſung by the common people in the ſtreets of Florence, while that poet was alive. It may alſo be ſaid to the credit of the Tuſcans, that they have more improved in agriculture, than all other Italians.

The Tuſcan language, eſpecially at Sienna, is looked upon as the beſt in Italy. This province having produced the beſt writers, and having been moſt conducive to the improvement of the language, the inhabitants make all their neighbours ſenſible of that ſuperiority. Though the Tuſcans are imitated in their ſtyle, their affected pronunciation is quite left to themſelves. It is remarkable, that this fancied beauty is not imitated by any Italian province. But there is a known proverb: *Lingua*

Toſcana in bocca Romana (The Tuſcan language in the Roman mouth). Among other defects with reſpect to pronunciation, the Tuſcans never ſound the *c*, but change it into an *h*; e. gr. *cavallo* they will pronounce *havallo*; *chieſa*, *hieſa*, &c. It ſounds as if the ſpeaker had loſt his uvula. This affectation is very ancient, and was uſed by the Florentines even in the times of Dante, who ſays in his celebrated poem, that by this defect the ſouls in the other world had known his countrymen.

As the Italians are no travellers, nay as they ſeldom viſit the adjacent provinces of their peninſula, it will account for their ſeveral different dialects, which are not only preſerved by the people of quality, but become daily more ſanctioned, as there are even authors who write poems in them. There are now five complete tranſlations of Taſſo's Jeruſalem delivered, written in five confounded lingos of gibbe-

gibberiſh, viz. thoſe that are ſpoke at Venice, Bergamo, Bologna, Milan, and Naples; I ſhall not mention comedies, which are found in all the provincial dialects.

No country has wrought more at the perfection of language than Italy, yet this country, which has produced ſo many excellent poets, cannot ſhow a ſingle elegant proſaic writer. Algarotti, the Venetian, is looked upon as the beſt model in Italian proſe; but how much inferior is that author in his ſtyle, to the proſaical writers of England, France, and Germany? *The Academia della Cruſca* of this place is alſo a freſh proof of the inutility of ſuch ſocieties of language. It could not go farther than the French academy of Paris.

There are numbers of learned productions publiſhed here, but they are ſo pedantical and taſteleſs, as if they had been writ-

ten in the middle age and not in the eighteenth century. Old claſſical editions are often reprinted with commentaries and notes, which is an inconteſtable proof of the ſmall degree of learning among the Tuſcans. At preſent they have no poets, but a numberleſs ſet of ſonnetteers. I have mentioned above the book-trade, which was once very flouriſhing here. Sometimes Italian books are publiſhed at Florence and Parma, printed with great typographical beauty, but they are printed at the expence of the duke, or under his protection, and cannot be adduced as an argument of the flouriſhing ſtate of the book trade, the juſteſt ſcale to weigh the cultivation of a nation in our times.

Thus the Italians, who neither travel nor read, nor underſtand other European languages, muſt naturally be in a ſtate of decline, and it becomes obvious, that this very ſtate is concealed from them.

Sher-

Sherlock took it upon him to teach them better in 1777. Being ſufficiently verſed in the Italian language, he wrote a book, in which he cleared up the preſent ſtate of their literature, and gave them the moſt convincing proofs of their want of taſte and groſs ignorance.

The great names of a Shakſpeare, a Richardſon, a Cope, and many others, appeared, for the firſt time, praiſed in an Italian book. It made an uncommon figure, but the Italians were far from improving by its contents, quite on the contrary, they wrote againſt it in the moſt virulent ſtyle, and Sherlock was honoured with the general epithet of *il matto Ingleſe*, (the mad Engliſhman).* . There was only one Italian gentleman in Rome, Mr. Bianconi, who took up his pen in Sherlock's defence, finding his cenſures to be well founded.

* The Engliſh reader knows well that Biſhop Sherlock was a native of Ireland: it is common to foreigners to miſs this diſtinction. *Tranſlator.*

The high opinion which the Italians conceive of the province in which they are born, borders even upon ridicule. Every one looks upon his little country as the moſt beautiful ſpot in the four parts of the world. And whatever well grounded or falſe arguments can ſupport their ſottiſh conceit, are propagated by tradition. This is the caſe from the Roman town to the Luccanian. Thus it will not appear ſtrange, if the Florentines, who diſtinguiſh themſelves in ſo many other points, endeavour, if poſſible, to outdo all other Italians by their oſtentatious gaſconades. Theſe find every where nothing but barbariſm and rude manners, they alone are accompliſhed, invented, and brought all to perfection. The great men of all other nations are in their opinion far inferior to their countrymen; they maintain theſe and many ſuch like abſurdities.

The Florentines cannot complain of want of encouragement, yet, notwithſtanding

ſtanding this, and many other means of perfection offered to artiſts in the great gallery, in the private collections of art, the ſtatues in the ſtreets and churches, their progreſs in the arts is very ſlender. Nothing is eaſier obtained than permiſſions to draw in the palaces, and to copy the great maſter-pieces of art. The corridors of the great gallery, full of antique ſtatues and paintings, are open all day long to every body, and filled with artiſts at work. The only art which is brought here to a high degree of perfection, is the Florentine Moſaic, which is made no where but in Florence. Notwithſtanding the beauty, perfect imitation of nature, and ſtriking characteriſtic of theſe ſtone paintings, the artiſts employed in this branch are claſſed very low, and looked upon as common mechanics. They make landſcapes, fruits, and ſea-ſcenes, which enrapture the eye, and cannot be excelled by the pencil: but theſe works being very dear, they only make ſmall pieces, but upon or-

der they will copy the largeſt landſcapes. Hiſtorical paintings are beyond the ſphere of this art, and reſerved to the Roman *Moſaic*, which differs from the Florentine, becauſe in the former they uſe large ſtones, and in the latter very ſmall ones.

The grand duke's gallery is the greateſt ornament of Florence, and proves, what a ſeries of princes, if lovers of art, are able to collect. Had it not been for a particular cloſe, annexed to the will of the laſt princeſs of the houſe of Medicis, this magnificent collection would have been brought to Vienna, when Francis I. took poſſeſſion of Tuſcany, but on that account the whole has remained in Florence; even the great quantity of ſilver and gold vaſes, which are kept in the palace, and were left by Coſmus II. have not been touched, however neceſſary thoſe treaſures would have been to the court of Vienna, during her long wars. This magnificent gallery is the only one of its kind, and never has a ſingle build-

building united ſo many various productions of art. Among the collection of antique ſtatues, however valuable, there is but one of them capital, viz. the Venus of Medicis.

How little therefore can this collection be compared to the Clementine Muſeum. Some connoiſſeurs will even prefer the collection of antiquities of villa Borgheſe and the Capitol, to that of Florence. The ſame may be obſerved about the paintings, which are ſuperior both in value and number to ever ſo many galleries in Europe. The moſt beautiful picture at Florence, called *ma donna della Sedia*, by Raphaël, is not in the gallery, but in the palace of Pitti, the reſidence of the grand duke.

What diſtinguiſhes the gallery of Florence from all others in Europe, are two rooms full of portraits of the greateſt maſters, painted by themſelves: their num-

ber amounts to above two hundred. That of Mengs is the laſt that has been ſent; it is larger than any one in the collection, and he himſelf choſe its place. Batoni, at Rome, was requeſted to ſend his, but that artiſt will not work without money. Upon expreſſing to him my ſurpriſe at not having ſeen his portrait in the gallery of Florence, he anſwered: "I have no time for ſuch work, if they "will pay me, it ſhall be done."

The late electreſs of Saxony, a princeſs proficient in poetry, painting, and muſic, offered her portrait to the duke while reſident here, and afterwards ſent it from Germany painted by herſelf. She does not parade as an electreſs, but as a painter, with the pencil in hand: the frame of the portrait is, however, adorned with a large crown. To this gallery belongs a collection of Etrurian and other antique vaſes; alſo ſeveral utenſils of the ancients, and the artificial wax-works: ſome of them repre-

repreſent all the parts of the human body anatomically, and with great illuſion; they are very inſtructive for artiſts and phyſicians, nay, for every thinking head. Part of theſe excellent wax-works have lately been brought to Vienna, where they are expoſed, with equal ſplendor and taſte, in the Imperial college of ſurgery. As this art has been always much promoted in that capital by Joſeph II. every preparative to render it more flouriſhing, is received with the greateſt admiration. The learned profeſſor Hunczowſky has greatly improved and enlarged the Florentine invention. He has imitated in wax ſeveral members of the human body, with wounds and other ailments, and thus expoſed them to the pupils, in order to demonſtrate, when an operation ſhould be made and when not. It is a gallery of diſeaſes, which, by the great abilities of the above experienced profeſſor, conveys illuſion to the eye, and the beſt inſtruction to the mind.

The moſt precious productions are kept in a place called *Tribuna*, which is the Holy of Holies of this temple of arts. This Tribuna forms a very elegant cloſet, of a round or rather octagonal form, with a roof in ſhape of a dome, which receives the light: here are the ſelect pieces of the gallery—The Venus of Medicis, with five other ancient ſtatues, ſeveral pictures by Raphael, an excellent Madona by Corregio, a Venus by Titian, and ſeveral more. In 1780 ſome alterations were made in the ſtructure of the Tribuna, with regard to the inner parts of the gallery, and the works were carried on with the greateſt alacrity. Leopold was often preſent himſelf, and encouraged the workmen. His attention was chiefly engroſſed by a ſpacious ſaloon, deſtined for the reception of the group of Niobé. This ſaloon will be the moſt magnificent in all Europe. The gallery itſelf has received additional rooms, and the grand duke ordered all his rare paintings to be

brought hither from his palaces and caſtles. As the digging of antiquities was formerly attended with many difficulties, he has now removed them, and enacted a law for the encouragement of thoſe who embark in ſimilar undertakings.

Pitti palace is the reſidence of the grand duke's family. It ſtill bears the name of Pitti, the firſt proprietor, who had it built in the fifteenth century; but, ruined by the expences, was forced to ſell it again to the houſe of Medicis, who aggrandized it conſiderably. Alberti, who deſcended from a noble Tuſcan family, was the architect. This artiſt, who followed in his works the principles of Vitruvius, and ſtudied with unremitting diligence the monuments of Greece and Rome, was the firſt among the moderns, who wrote upon architecture; he alſo wrote Latin treatiſes on painting and ſtatuary.

This

The palace, which lies upon an eminence, is not great but fine, magnificently furniſhed, and beautified with paintings *in freſco*. Paintings are very numerous here, and partly more valuable than thoſe in the gallery. Here is alſo the above-mentioned truly admirable picture of *Madonna della Sedia*, repreſenting Mary with her infant in a ſitting poſture; it is not above twenty inches, but the pencil of Raphael has diſplayed ſuch a force in this enrapturing and ſtriking image, as will bewitch even thoſe who know nothing of the art.

Behind the palace are the ſpacious gardens; they moſtly conſiſt of terraces, embelliſhed with fountains. Theſe are all the beauties of the gardens, which are much neglected. Here, well dreſſed people may walk about. It was here alſo I met with the famous pretender, who lived in Florence for ſeveral years, in a moſt private and retired manner. He never went

to

to court, and renounced all company, as he pretended to a royal title, which nobody would give him. This unſatisfied ambition drove him from Rome, where his family lived beloved and pitied for ſo many years, and where cardinal York, his brother, was much eſteemed. Before he married, many of the Roman nobles gave him the title of *voſtra Maeſta* (your Majeſty), but when he preſented to them his ſpouſe, who was born counteſs of Stolberg, as his queen, the Roman ladies were provoked; he received ſeveral affronts, left Rome, and came to Florence.

The cathedral is as ſtriking for its magnitude as for the coloured marble with which it is covered. It is a worthy monument of priſtine republican ſplendor. The ſame may be obſerved of the building where all the children are baptized, which is ſituated near the cathedral: the doors are of metal, and divided into ſmall ſpaces,

ſpaces, repreſenting ſcriptural ſubjects drawn from the hiſtory of the church, and the Roman legend, all executed in a moſt ſuperior and inimitable ſtile. Michael Angelo was ſo great an admirer of theſe doors, that he uſed to ſay, they deſerved to be the doors of paradiſe. I have no where in Italy ſeen ſuch detached buildings ſerving for the purpoſe of chriſtening children, except in Tuſcany.

PISA.

Piſa cannot be ſeen without emotion. A city ſo ancient, once opulent, powerful, and populous, now ſunk ſo deep, as to become a poor provincial town in a petty ſtate. The circumference of this city is very conſiderable, and occupies at preſent as much ground as it did when the ſeat of a flouriſhing and warlike commonwealth; but its population amounts only

to

to eighteen thouſand ſouls, which makes the ſtreets empty and deſolate, and many of them are overgrown with graſs. This want of population cauſes ſeveral hundreds of houſes to be uninhabited, and ſuch as are inhabited pay a very low rent. Proviſions are cheap, and luxury is very inconſiderable. Many poor noble families reſide here to hinder the total ruin of the place. Notwithſtanding all this poverty, plays are acted all the year round, and during the carnival they give magnificent operas. It was lucky for Piſa, that the Ruſſian Count Orlow made it his headquarters in the laſt war with the Turks. Leghorn being the only port in the Mediterranean where the Ruſſian fleet could be provided with every thing, the Ruſſians always returned hither when they came back from their cruizes and expeditions; but as the Count liked Piſa better than Leghorn, on account of the nobility, he made it his chief reſidence during the whole war. The ſtaff-officers followed his

his example, eſpecially in winter. The diſtance being only two leagues, they all reſorted to Piſa, which then enjoyed ſuch abundance, as is ſtill felt by the inhabitants.

Piſa is one of the moſt ancient towns of Italy. Even in Strabo's time it was a very important maritime city; it was then ſituated on the ſea, which has ſince receded: this receſſion of the ſea is common to all thoſe great ſhores of Italy, where the rivers flow into either of the ſeas which environ them. Many aſſert that the Appenine mountains become lower every century, and that their earth, which is led by the rivers into the ſea, aggrandizes Italy by degrees.

If we enter Piſa from Maſſa Carrara, or the Genoeſe ſide, the ſpace before the cathedral preſents itſelf directly to ſight, and is quite overgrown with graſs. There are but few houſes in the environs, and there is

is hardly a ſoul to be ſeen, except on ſundays and holidays. It reſembles an enchanted ſpot, and the elegant buildings form a moſt magnificent group, and entrance with admiration. The cathedral, with its metal gates, like that of Florence, the houſe of baptiſm, the hanging tower, the holy church-yard (*Campo Santo*) all theſe ſtand in the middle of the turf, and have the appearance of a large village. Several edifices unite the moſt beautiful ornaments of architecture to grandeur and majeſtic appearance; and the hanging tower is the moſt elegant in Italy.

The cathedral was built in 1016, by Boſchetto de Dulichio, a Greek architect, almoſt entirely of Greek ruins. Its in and out ſides are covered with marble, which the natives of Piſa fetched from the Levant at the moſt flouriſhing epoch of their trade: they traded in thoſe times to all the iſlands of the Mediterranean and Archipelago, beſides the coaſts of Aſia Minor,

Minor, Syria, Egypt, and Africa. The church has one hundred large windows, which light the inſide; the outſide is decorated with a vaſt number of pillars great and ſmall. It is the fineſt piece of Gothic architecture in Italy. A great number of granite columns, which ſupport that great pile, are executed by Greek maſters in a moſt elegant ſtile: ſome are of one piece of granite, and ſome even of porphrey. One pillar, nine feet long, conſiſts of the latter valuable ſtone, and ſtands before the high altar.

The baptiſm edifice, and the hanging tower, are alſo embelliſhed with Greek ruins. There remains no doubt of this fine tower having actually given way. The ridiculous prejudice of its having been built hanging is ſufficiently contradicted; for it is viſible that the lower pillar and the threſhold are both ſunk, otherwiſe the ſmall pillars upon the left would have been ſhorter.

ſhorter. The ſtones are ſo well hewn, and the materials ſo good, that it has remained in this ſituation for theſe ſix centuries. If a perpendicular line is drawn from its ſummit down to the ground, the diſtance from the lower part of the tower is fifteen feet. It has eight ſtories, and is 188 feet high. They ſay that this hanging edifice helped the great Galilæus to make an exact calculation of the fall of bodies.

The holy church-yard, or *Campo Santo*, is a great large ſquare encompaſſed with high walls, painted by Ghiotto, Ghiottino, Stephano, Buffalmaco, and other famous maſters, who flouriſhed ſoon after the revival of the art of painting: they are all ſcriptural ſubjects. Theſe walls encompaſs a ſmall field, whoſe earth has been dug in the vicinity of the holy ſepulchre of Jeruſalem: it was done during the cruſades, in which the people of Piſa were alſo concerned. Whilſt every body brought

brought relics from Paleſtine to Europe, the Piſaneſe took it into their heads to render their city glorious by ſo hallowed a ſpot. Thus their ſhips carried warriors and arms to the holy land, and inſtead of riches, which might have been expected, they brought back wounded ſoldiers and earth. He that wiſhes to be buried in the holy ground muſt deem it a great honour, and put himſelf to a great expence. A moſt magnificent mauſoleum in this *Campo Santo* is ſacred to the memory of Count Algarotti, who died here in 1765. The late king of Pruſſia had it erected to his learned friend, the ſame as he honoured the aſhes of the Marquis d'Argens, at Aix in Provence. Frederick the Great wrote the epitaph himſelf, which, though laconic, is highly expreſſive. The traveller will read — *Algarotti Ovidii aemulo, Neutoni Diſcipulo, Fridericus.* The king kept up correſpondence with him till he died, and had he recovered, he would have paid another viſit to his royal friend.

friend. One diviſion of this burial ground conſiſts of a particular ſort of earth, which, I was informed, conſumes the corpſe within the ſpace of nine days.

Beſides the above-mentioned productions of architecture, Piſa poſſeſſes alſo other fine public edifices and palaces. I muſt not omit mentioning an elegant marble bridge which is built over the river Arno, whereupon thoſe notorious annual combats were given, which, to the great mortification of all claſſes of Piſaneſe plebeians, have been ſuppreſſed by the preſent reigning duke.

Within half an hour's walk from Piſa there are warm baths, much viſited by the Italians, eſpecially ſince the grand duke has ordered them to be repaired. Here reigns an order, cleanlineſs, and commodity, rarely to be met with in other parts of Italy. The road to the baths leads along the magnificent aqueduct, a beautiful monu-

monument of the ancients. The diſtrict about Piſa is, in general, very attractive, and ſurpaſſes in this all the cities of Tuſcany. As rich as this place is in excellent works of architecture, as poor is it with reſpect to fine paintings, and quite deſtitute of antique ſtatues, there being not a ſingle one.

Piſa has alſo an univerſity, an obſervatory, a botanical garden, a cabinet of natural hiſtory, and a great number of profeſſors. Nothing is heard of their labours; and however learned they may be in their reſpective branches, they are, notwithſtanding, in a profound ignorance of what paſſes beyond the Alps. I ſpoke here with a book-making profeſſor of mathematics, who had never read nor heard any thing of Leibnitz and Wolf. This groſs ignorance, of which I have numberleſs inſtances, reigns throughout Italy; it chiefly ariſes from the Italians neglecting entirely the ſtudy of to learn the European languages.

SIENNA.

SIENNA.

Piſa is more conſiderable than Sienna, which has alſo an univerſity. This city is ſituate on the road from Florence to Rome; for this reaſon foreign paſſengers frequently ſtop there, yet without making any long ſtay. The ladies of this place are the handſomeſt in Tuſcany; and the inhabitants boaſt of ſpeaking the beſt Italian; yet I can by no means approve of their affected dialect. Their pretenſions go even farther, and they will paſs for the wittieſt people of Italy, wherefore they endeavour to ſhew their wit by ſingular expreſſions. I ſaw a cavalier, conducting ladies, met by a foreign opera ſinger, who, upon paying his reſpects by a bow, received the following reciprocal ſalutation from the cavalier: "Your ſlave, Mr. *Accompanier** of

* The tranſlator apologizes for this unuſual Engliſh expreſſion; for was he to expreſs it otherwiſe, the phraſe would loſe its ſingularity of ridicule.

" inſtruments!" This compliment excited a laugh, and put the amateur to the bluſh. Let the reader take this for a ſample of Sineſian wit. The word ſlave is a common form of greeting in Italy. Our common expreſſion of—Your moſt obedient, moſt humble ſervant, did not ſeem ſufficient to the Italians to expreſs their ſubmiſſion; they, for this reaſon, had recourſe to the gallies, and fetched from thence a picture to trace their politeneſs. I ſhall forbear every reflection, which muſt naturally flow from ſuch an obſervation.

The town of Sienna is large and well-built. The market place, which lies in a kind of depth and forms a baſon, is of uncommon extent. Population is inconſiderable, and poverty as great, if not greater, than at Piſa. There are but few remains of the priſtine flouriſhing ſtate of this city. The cathedral, which was built in the twelfth century, is the chief

chief monument, and contains a ſet of moſt valuable pictures, and other productions of art. It is extremely ſpacious, and its outſide, covered with black and white marble, forms a very majeſtic ſight. Sienna had a code of laws and rules for its painters and artiſts as early as in the thirteenth century; they formed a ſociety or club, had their preſidents, and ſtood in great repute.

LEGHORN.

Leghorn convinces us what wonders may be performed, in a ſhort time, through wiſe politic meaſures. An inſignificant place, amidſt a country full of ſea-ports, and, above all, adjacent to a very rich town, which had once a moſt extenſive trade, how little probable was it that it ſhould riſe, and ſurpaſs its proud neighbour in commerce! This

has, however, been the caſe, even without any extraordinany political revolution. When Amſterdam built its commercial hopes upon the decay of Antwerp, there were quite different efficient cauſes than there have been here between Leghorn and Genoa: it is the only commercial city in Italy whoſe affluence is increaſing.* Its population amounts to 45,000 ſouls, and increaſes daily. From the firſt time I was here to the laſt, a ſpace of ſix years had elapſed, and in ſo ſhort an interval the improving ſtate of this city was very perceptible. When the Genoeſe gave it up to the houſe of Medicis, it was a wretched unwholeſome place, but it totally loſt that bad quality, by increaſing population, and to the deſpair of its former maſters.

* The trade of Trieſte is alſo in a progreſſive ſtate. Though its inhabitants ſpeak Italian, the place, however, as is well known, does not belong to Italy, but to Germany.

As

As Leghorn is a new city, neither antiquities, nor modern works of architecture, ſuch as magnificent churches and palaces, nor galleries, nor collections of ſtatues, muſt be looked for here: they are reſerved to future times. Inſtead of them the traveller will find great induſtry, manufactures, and ſhipping. No harbour in the Mediterranean, not excepting Marſeilles, is ſo much reſorted to as this. The government make all poſſible exertions to favour and protect the trade. It boaſts of commercial freedom, treaties with the ſtates of Barbary, Eaſt India concerns, great toleration, and good mercantile regulations.

The jews enjoy uncommon liberties in this city, which abounds with them: they follow all trades, and have manufactures of corals, ſurpaſſing all others in Europe. It is worth while to mention here a ſingular project, for the execution of which real pains have been taken: — Some

German officers who ſerved on board the Ruſſian fleet during the laſt war with the Turks, and were perſonally acquainted with the famous Ali-Bey, agreed with ſeveral jews of this place, to propoſe to that fortunate rebel to give up Jeruſalem to them, which city he was maſter of at that time: his love of riches being inſatiable, he conſented, but he required very large ſums, and the aſſiſtance of Ruſſia in his ſucceeding enterprizes. As it was advantageous for the Ruſſian empire to ſee her powerful enemy weakened, ſecret ſubſidies were promiſed to Ali, and the jews, who already formed ſplendid projects, flattered themſelves to have them guaranteed by the firſt cabinets of Europe; they even dreamt of rebuilding the temple of Jeruſalem, and wrote about the matter to their Hebrew brethren in England and Holland. The ſtipulated ſums were the leaſt object, and who knows how far this ſingular plan might have been carried,

carried, had not ſuddenly the death of Ali put an end to thoſe ſecret tranſactions.

The long ſtay of the Ruſſian fleet in this harbour, where they were ſupplied with all neceſſaries, and whither they conducted the prizes they made, was ſo highly beneficial to Leghorn, that it granted the greateſt indulgence to the Ruſſians. The latter were ſo ſenſible of that indulgence, as to emancipate themſelves by committing miſdemeanours, which in no country would have remained unrevenged. The following trait will prove it:—The dog of a Ruſſian officer, who followed his maſter into the town, loſt himſelf at the guard-poſted near the town gates, and run among the firelocks, which cauſed a certain confuſion. It was compatible with the duty of the centry to drive away the animal, which he accordingly did by an ungentle motion of his foot. The Ruſſian, offended at this treatment of his dog, fell, cane in hand, upon

the Tuſcan centry, and beat him moſt mercileſſly. The cries of the ſufferer put into motion all the guards and their officer, who endeavoured to ſave the ſoldier from the rage of the aſſailant; but this only increaſed the fury of the Ruſſian, who took meaſure upon the Tuſcan gentleman with the ſame wooden inſtrument. What was moſt ſingular in this accident, is its having had no farther conſequences.

A far more remarkable event happened here in March, 1775. A Ruſſian lady, of natural birth, but deſcended from the moſt illuſtrious blood of that empire, had remained two years in Rome, where ſhe lived in the greateſt indigence and obſcurity. In that ſituation ſhe cannot have thought of turning her eyes upon a throne; ſhe was prudent, fair, and bleſt with the ſweeteſt temper. Her modeſt courſe of life was ſoon hemmed, by a Ruſſian officer delegated for that purpoſe, who made her perſonally a moſt extraordinary

dinary propoſal, to which he gave a ſtill greater weight, by offering a conſiderable ſum. The latter argument had its deſired effect upon her neceſſitous ſituation. The lady ſuffered herſelf to be prevailed on, and came to Piſa in the beginning of 1775, where ſhe was received like a queen by count Alexis Orlow, the Ruſſian admiral, who then reſided there. He attended the lady to every place of faſhion, and in the play-houſe ſhewed her ſuch great marks of reſpect before the public, as aſtoniſhed all the nobility. Nobody could conceive who was that lady, to whom the haughty count ſhewed ſo great a condeſcenſion. This laſted during the whole time of the carnival. At laſt a propoſal was made to take a trip to the adjacent port of Leghorn: it was accepted, they alighted at the houſe of the Engliſh conſul, and all was high life. At table the converſation fell upon the fleet, and as the lady had never ſeen a man of war, ſhe readily agreed to viſit one. Unfor-

tunate woman! how little did ſhe ſuſpect her fate! ſhe went into a boat with the count, and was brought to the deſtined ſhip. Here the ſcene changed all of a ſudden; ſhe was apprized of her captivity in a contemptible tone of voice, and her hands put into irons. The ſhip remained two days longer in port to take in a complete ſtore of proviſions for her voyage to Ruſſia. No ſtrange boat could come near, as the guards threatened to fire whenever a ſimilar attempt was ſuſpected. This, however, could not hinder the numerous boats of the people of Leghorn from drawing near enough to perceive the piteous object of their curioſity; ſhe came often to the cabbin window, where ſhe gave viſible ſigns of her deſpair. On the third day the ſhip ſailed with her prey; ſhortly after I arrived at Leghorn, and found the whole town in a ſtate of indignation about this adventure: the court above all gave manifeſt tokens of its high diſpleaſure.

A pro-

A propoſal was made to Hakert, a painter at Rome, and a native of Brandenburgh, to paint the Ruſſian victories. As the burning of the Turkiſh fleet near Tſcheſme was the principal exploit of that war, count Orlow had a ſhip ſet on fire in the port of Leghorn, to impreſs the painter's mind with more lively ideas. This was the real cauſe for burning the ſhip; but not the ridiculous motive, which is mentioned by many, that the count intended to treat his royal highneſs the duke of Glouceſter, then at Leghorn, with an extraordinary fire-work. A great number of painters came from all the provinces of Italy to behold that ſingular ſpectacle. Whether they ſaw much more than fire and ſmoak, or whether this ſcene was worth a long journey, remains a queſtion: it ſuffices to ſay, that Hakert painted the burning of the Turkiſh fleet, and other naval expeditions of the Ruſſians, and Catherine requited him with an imperial reward.

Though Leghorn has neither great palaces, nor magnificent churches, it does not want for elegant dwellings, moſt ſumptuouſly furniſhed. Sir — Dyke, the Engliſh conſul, has carried that luxury to a degree of extravagance, even unknown to Italian princes. His houſe, of uncommon extent, was then divided in ſummer and winter apartments, and each part, from the tapeſtry to the ſmalleſt utenſil, was different, and moſt capriciouſly ſelected for each ſeaſon. This refinement has been invented in France, though it has hitherto been little imitated in other countries. This peculiarity induced count Orlow to take up his reſidence in the houſe of the Engliſh knight, and to leave the victualling of the Ruſſian fleet to his care. This important truſt had been before in the hands of a German merchant, of the name of Frank, whoſe houſe is the moſt conſiderable in Leghorn, and to whom count Orlow was under particular obligations. The merchant

chant had alſo offered his fine houſe, but there being, unfortunately, no diſtinction in it between ſummer and winter apartments, Sir —— Dyke's got the preference; upon this he got the victualling, and underſtood the buſineſs ſo well, that he cleared above a million of zechins by it. The diſappointed Mr. Frank was appointed, by the court of St. Peterſburgh, conſul-general in Italy, and a conſiderable ſalary was added to that office, with a view to indemnify him. Frank, however, refuſed the charge, under a pretence of too much buſineſs. The empreſs, therefore, who would not leave his ſignal ſervices without reward, granted him conſiderable commercial privileges, which his veſſels ſtill enjoy in all the ſea-ports of Ruſſia.

The great trade of Leghorn to the coaſt of Barbary and the Levant, makes the performance of quarantine very ſtrict. No one muſt expect indulgence on this head; neither rank, nor *parole d'honneur*, nor

nor the ſtrongeſt tokens of good health fall into any conſideration. The quarantine is performed in certain buildings erected for that purpoſe, and ſituate not far from the harbour. The time of abode differs variouſly, and its duration is fixed according to the place whence the ſhip comes, and its certificates of health. All the favour ſhewn on that head to count Orlow, who was forced to repeat many times the ſame medical proceſs, was to let him go juſt a few days before his time was expired. The ſailors hate thoſe long quarantines, and practiſe every art to avoid them. When a ſhip, coming from the Levant, deſcries the port at a diſtance, all is in motion; every ſoul on board muſt clean and dreſs himſelf, and ſtrong liquors are not ſpared to give the crew a briſk and jolly appearance: the ſick muſt leave their hammocks and feign to be well; but if their diſorder is ſuſpicious, they are ſometimes landed by night before the ſhip reaches the harbour. I remember that

that this manœuvre was practiſed by a man of war in 1774; ſhe had two of her men ſick, whoſe diſeaſe puzzled the ſkill of the ſhip's ſurgeons. Theſe ſailors being both Italians, and acquainted with the country, were brought on ſhore in the dead of night: the ſhip continued her courſe, little caring about theſe men, who were never heard of afterwards. A diſcovery might have put their life into danger, for the laws are very rigorous on that head, and this is indeed the beſt part of Italian policy. The ſmalleſt boat that enters a harbour, though it comes only from a ſhore of Italy, ſituate a few miles farther, is obliged to ſend firſt a declaration to the commiſſioners of health, before leave is granted to the crew to enter the town.

The coffee-houſes in Leghorn are the fineſt in Europe; they abound with the moſt modiſh and exquiſite ornaments; the rooms are full of large pier glaſſes,

and

and moſt ſumptuouſly illuminated at night. Hoſpitality, to which the people of Leghorn are as great ſtrangers as other Italians, is fully inſulted here by a very ſingular cuſtom, which reflects no honour upon a rich commercial city.--- Every foreigner, who is not an Italian, muſt pay double price upon his entering the play-houſe for the firſt time; ſhould ſuch a ſtranger oppoſe ſo inhoſpitable a regulation, the entrance is denied him; if his language, countenance, and dreſs, are ſo much Italian that he is not known, he only pays the uſual price, but in caſe of a diſcovery expoſes himſelf to an affront. It muſt be obſerved, that this abuſive cuſtom is only peculiar to Leghorn; and although the ſpeculation be lucrative, no city in Italy has yet followed the example.

SECT.

SECT. VI.

GENOA.—*Government.*—*Character of the Genoeſe.*—*State œconomy.*—*Commerce.*—*Capital funds.*—*Parallel between Genoa and Hamburgh.*—*Private Oeconomy.*—*Parſimony.*—*Sciences and arts.*—*Works of architecture.*---*Ladies.*--*Language.*--*Groſs ignorance.*—*Acts of devotion.*—*Brotherhoods.*--*Solemnity with St. John's aſhes.*—*Conſtitution.*—*Nobility.*—*Genoa emancipated by the people in* 1746.—*Army and navy.*—*Harbour.*—*Self-ſelling galley ſlaves.*—*Commercial concerns of the Genoeſe nobles.*—*Clifford.*—*Bank of Genoa.*—*Commerce oppreſſed.*—*St. Remo.*—*Noli.*—*Aſſemblies.*—*Ciciſbeat.*—*Lucca.*

THE republic of Genoa, formerly ſo powerful, which poſſeſſed even a ſuburbs of Conſtantinople, and ſtruck the Venetians with terror, is now fallen into

into a meanneſs which denotes from all quarters its want of power, and renders dubious the future length of its republican exiſtence. It was a fatal neceſſity to yield Corſica to France. The troops of the republic were not ſufficient to defend that iſland againſt the intrepid natives who fought againſt tyranny. According to the moſt authentic calculations, this conqueſt coſt France 20,000 men and ſixty millions of livres, and the number of inhabitants amounts to about 124,000. It might be ſaid that the Genoeſe have rather won than loſt by the yielding up of this iſland, were Corſica not highly neceſſary to the city of Genoa on account of the proviſions: theſe are no more brought hither ſince Corſica is ſubject to France. If it ſhould happen ſometimes, they are ſold at ſo high a price as the common citizen of Genoa cannot afford, this dearth, the end of which cannot be foreſeen, makes the people diſſatisfied with the government againſt which they

they murmur loudly. It is remarkable, this and many other inſtances, the republics of Genoa and Venice form a perfect contraſt. In Venice the tongue is fettered, whilſt here the people may give the freeſt courſe to complaints by the moſt violent expreſſions, without having any thing to fear from reſentment. If this indulgence of a government ſprings from political maxims, one might almoſt aſſert the principle ſo detrimental to humanity, that in governing nations, violence is to be preferred to lenity. The diſcontent of a nation with its government creates a diſinclination to the ſtate itſelf, which is the caſe here; whereas the Venetians, notwithſtanding the ſeverity with which they are treated, are moſt firmly attached to their republic.

Stabbing with daggers, and ſometimes murder itſelf, is treated with the ſame indulgence, as the magiſtrates are afraid of the ſame attacks. I myſelf heard a con-

converſation between a journeyman and the general of the republic (who is always a ſenator, whereas in Venice it muſt be a foreigner and a real ſoldier, which forms again a contraſt) in the palace of the doge. The man's brother had been taken into cuſtody for a crime againſt the ſtate, to which he pleaded not guilty; the journeyman, therefore, inſiſted upon his being ſet at liberty in the moſt peremptory terms, adding, that he would be revenged if his demand was not complied with. My aſtoniſhment exceeded all bounds when this inſolent conduct, exhibited in a public court, and in the preſence of above one hundred perſons, was anſwered by the general with indulgence and condeſcenſion, which in ſimilar caſes are the ſureſt token of a weak government. He made every exertion to appeaſe the man, and revoked, on the ſpot, the orders he had given, that no one ſhould be admitted to the preſence of the delinquent.

There

There is an old proverb, which is continually in the mouth of the neighbours of the Genoeſe, "A ſea without fiſh, "mountains without woods, men without "probity, and women without ſhame." It would be doing an injury to the Genoeſe to judge them ſtrictly from vulgar proverbs, in which there lies ſometimes a great deal of truth. They have given no ſmall reaſon for it, and ſtill continue doing it. A ſpirit of uſury, which animates the men, makes them to permit themſelves many things by which probity and credit muſt ſuffer; it alſo makes them careleſs about their wives, to whom they grant great liberties, which they turn ſo well to their advantage, as in ſome reſpects makes true the above ſaying.

The Genoeſe are more cunning and induſtrious than other Italians. This ariſes from the ſterility of their country, whoſe nature is a baſtard, if compared to the other adjacent fine provinces. They

wiſh

wiſh to ſupply this defect by activity and the exerting their parts, and have always well ſucceeded in that particular: The ſame character was alſo common to the Ligurians, who, in times of yore, inhabited this country. Travellers in every country are taught by ſingular examples how conducive want is to induſtry, and how it is checked by abundance. Let them only compare the watery and marſhy ſoil of Holland with the Elyſian fields of Naples. This remarkable induſtry of the Genoeſe, their uſury and peculiar way of thinking and acting, brought upon them not only the hatred of their neighbours, but of all Italy.

From a peculiar refinement of ſtate œconomy, imitated partly in ſome places, but no where wholly, government keep to themſelves the excluſive trade in all the principal articles of proviſions, ſuch as bread, wine, oil, wood; in ſhort, all neceſſaries muſt be bought in the maga-

zines of the city, where they are found of the worſt quality. Beſides this, as the prices are high, and ſmuggling cannot eaſily take place, the common people are conſtrained to purchaſe their neceſſaries there. The nobility and conſiderable merchants, upon paying certain duties, may receive their proviſions from abroad. They are ſuffered to make a preſent of a few bottles of wine to ſtrangers, who, without that piece of politeneſs, would fare very badly in Genoa, it being, at any rate, abſolutely impoſſible to get drinkable wine. This extenſive monopoly cauſes the extraordinary poverty which ſo much oppreſſes the common people of this city, that were it not for the great number of foundations and conſiderable voluntary contributions, they would almoſt be ſtarved.

The population of Genoa amounts to about 80,000 ſouls, of which there are not above two hundred rich families, and five

five or six hundred of an ordinary competency; the rest are as poor as misery itself; the state itself is poor, and leaves no prospect of ever paying the great debts it has contracted.

People are accustomed to look upon Genoa as the Peru of Italy. The capital sums which this city has lent to kings, princes, and towns, and still does lend, seem to confirm the idea of an inexhaustible treasure. The total decay of the trade of Genoa obliged the Genoese to lend out their capital funds by change. There are no warehouses, as in other commercial cities, stocked with the productions of different countries, and the trade of Genoa is entirely in money concerns. Money, however, being no wealth with respect to state-œconomy, but only a token of wealth, ought to be looked upon here as a common article; for should it come to fail, the trade of the Genoese must cease for ever, the country being quite destitute

tute of natural productions. From this people might naturally believe, that there muſt be plenty of money, it being conſidered as the ſole commodity of Genoa; but they would be miſtaken, and the ſmalleſt compariſon will evince it. The money circulating here does not exceed nine millions of rix-dollars, a ſum which, though conſiderable, cannot be looked upon as extraordinary, being the only wealth of a ſtate called rich. Hamburgh has perhaps no ſmaller circulation, though its true opulence does not conſiſt ſo much in money than in the great variety of merchandize and all ſorts of raw and wrought productions. It would not be difficult for me to prove, that this great imperial city, though only poſſeſſed of a ſmall territory, and not looked upon as a ſtate in the Germanic conſtitution, without nobles on her head to give her the conceited ſplendor of Genoa, is, nevertheleſs, of greater importance than the latter, by her more extenſive commerce, her wealth diffuſed

among all claſſes of people, in ſhort, for her induſtry and flouriſhing ſtate. The capitals diſpoſed of as loans to other countries, amounted in June of 1780, to forty-five millions of rix dollars, but a great part of this money is not ſafe. Taking now all thoſe riches together, beſides all debts paid, they would not have been ſufficient to maintain only for ſix months the Engliſh forces during the late American war. Such calculations are ſometimes neceſſary to aſcertain the proportion of one ſtate, with reſpect to another.

The great œconomy obſerved by the richer ſort of people, to enable them to make loans of their intereſt, baffles every conception, and a Dutchman would think it carried too far; hence the ſmall degree of hoſpitality, the reſerved courſe of life, the plain and ſimple dreſs, the rarity of amuſements, and total want of literati

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and artiſts in this capital, which gave birth to a Columbus and a Doria.

Parſimony alone could introduce the cuſtom of a black dreſs, unparallelled in Europe. The Venetians, though they wear uniform red cloaks, make them only ſubſervient to cover the various dreſſes in which they always appear in company. But in Genoa, the dreſs is completely black; and he that wiſhes to diſtinguiſh himſelf in the leaſt from the populace, wears that colour, and no other. This cauſes ſo ſullen an aſpect in company, by which the ſmall degree of ſociableneſs of this ſtate is perhaps ſtill more leſſened.

The Genoeſe are as fond of plays as any other race of Italians, but they are ſtill more fond of money; therefore thoſe ſplendid operas, which are acted in other ſmaller cities of Italy, are never ſeen in Genoa. The ſmall encouragement which actors receive, ſupplies Ge-

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noa only with the outcaſt of other cities. Should a famous ſinger happen to come to Genoa, it would only be in ſummer, when the greateſt part of the Italian theatres are cloſed.

Genoa is the only ſtate of ſome importance in Europe, which has no univerſity. The indifference of the Genoeſe about arts and ſciences is really incredible, and herein they form another contract with the Venetians, who give great encouragement to ſome of the learned and artiſts. If the palaces of Durazzo, Brignole, Carrega, and others had not been filled with rare pictures in the ſixteenth and ſeventeenth century, they ſurely would not be at preſent. Theſe collections are not increaſed, nor are they properly taken care of. An artiſt might riſk here to be ſtarved. This alſo accounts for there being none to be found in Genoa. The ſame may be ſaid in a double ſtronger meaning of the learned, eſpecially

cially ſince the ſuppreſſion of the order of Jeſuits. Ignorance is ſo great in Genoa, as to be real barbariſm. All this cannot be laid to the charge of the mercantile ſpirit, which agrees ſo well with an enlightened country, for it is proved by many commercial cities in Germany and France, even in Holland, where all breathes commerce; not mentioning England, where merchants are the greateſt promoters of arts, and often learned men themſelves.

The only art cultivated here with great ſucceſs, is that of increaſing capitals. The ſpirit of the Genoeſe being unruly and fermenting, would give a fatal blow to ariſtocratic power, if ſciences could gain ground in their ſtate. It is perhaps from a ſenſe of conviction of this peril, that the ſenate ſet aſide all the cultivation of mental accompliſhments.

The fine churches and public edifices which are ſeen here, owe their exiſtence to former ages, when a quite different ſpirit animated the ſtate. The church of annunciation is one of the fineſt in Italy, and the interior parts exhibit the moſt uncommon ſplendor: the like may be ſaid of the cathedral.

What is moſt ſtriking here in point of architecture, is the bridge of Carignan, which is almoſt ſuſpended in the air, and deep below it are houſes ſix ſtories high. The family of Carignan had a fine church built, which ſtill goes by their name, and makes one of the fineſt in Genoa. Its ſituation upon a mountain was very incommodious for pious ſouls; that family had therefore the above bridge built, which leads from the oppoſite mountain to the church. There is a ſtill more beautiful proſpect from a terrace, which repreſents to the eye, all at once, the ſea, the city, and numberleſs

berleſs country ſeats. Antiquities and productions of ſtatuary are very rare in Genoa, and very numerous in ſmaller and leſs important cities, as thoſe of Parma, Placenza, Bologna, &c. If a traveller aſks for maſter-pieces of ſtatuary, they will ſhow him three ſtatutes by Puget, which, though valuable, are but indifferent remains in a rich city, where the arts have been once in ſo flouriſhing a condition.

Genoa goes by the name of the *magnificent*. But it may indeed be ſaid, that it has nothing great but its buildings, all other things evince the littleneſs of the ſtate. There reigns a certain ſadneſs amidſt the ſplendor of palaces and temples, which give them a very melancholy appearance. To this may be added the prevailing faſhion of a black dreſs. The neighbouring Italians uſed to ſay, that the Genoeſe are in mourning for their former good faith and fidelity.

It was pride, and not the love of architecture, which made the Genoeſe embelliſh their capital by ſumptuous palaces, which, however captivating for curſory obſervation, are far remote from the good ſtyle of this art, which is admired in the palaces of Rome and Florence, and in the works of Palladio. The fine proſpect of Genoa from the ſea-ſide, of which the inhabitants are ſo proud, is too dearly bought by the great incommodiouſneſs of its narrow and ſtinking ſtreets, which ariſes from the local ſitnation of the place. The ſpace it occupies is a narrow track of land, between the mountains and the ſea ſhore. It forms a ſemicircle round the harbour, and is ſo narrow, that a great part of the town is built on the declivity of the mountains, and has the appearance of an amphitheatre. Excepting a few ſtreets paſſable for horſes and carriages, all the others are impracticable for that purpoſe; even the magnificent *ſtrada nuova*, which conſiſts of

of fourteen palaces, is ſubject to the ſame inconveniency, though the broadeſt of Genoa. The nobility therefore go a viſiting in chairs, but they only ſuffer themſelves to be carried when the weather is bad, and when fair, the chairs follow them empty from behind. The ladies have the advantage of being always attended by cavaliers. They are in a black dreſs like the latter, to diſtinguiſh themſelves from the wives of common citizens, to whom it is not permitted to wear black, and who, I believe, would be little inclined to adopt a wear ſo repugnant to delicate elegance; however, all plebeians, or ſuch as do not wiſh to belong to the vulgar claſs, go in black as well as the nobles.

The Genoeſe ladies are handſome, but their peculiar dreſs does not ſet off their beauty: it conſiſts in a cotton veil, called *meſero*, with which they cover the head and upper part of the body; nothing remains free but the eyes, which

they effect by giving a ſkilful turning to the veil. Head, neck, arms, ſhape, in ſhort the fineſt parts of their body, are made inviſible, and the lady is almoſt tranſmuted into a mummy. The moſt elegant head-dreſs, and the moſt ſuperb attire, are ſometimes concealed beneath this groteſque diſguiſe, which is the more ridiculous, from the odd contraſt the veil forms upon ſilk gowns. It is true that the Venetian ladies wear alſo a veil, called *Zendalo*, but theſe are of a black ſilk ſtuff, of a quite different quality, and are worn as a ſhawl, and bound behind in a knot, which gives them a charming appearance, whilſt the *meſero* has a very diſagreeable aſpect. The Genoeſe ladies of quality never uſe this veil, unleſs they pay ſome very ſecret incognito viſit. To wear jewels is forbidden by a law, which allows them only to ladies going to be married, ſix weeks before and ſix weeks after marriage.

The

The total want of mental accompliſhments among the men, premiſes, in this reſpect, no opportunity of a panegyric upon the fair ſex. Reading being a quite unknown occupation, the ladies are not to blame if they look upon a book as the moſt uſeleſs thing in the world. Gaming, intrigues, and acts of devotion compoſe the circle of their ſphere, and are their ſole amuſements in company. Only, from a peculiar regard for a ſtranger, they can be prevailed upon to ſpeak Italian, for even ladies of the firſt rank, ſpeak among themſelves the Genoeſe only. A circumſtance, which makes the ladies ſo partial to that dialect, that they find it difficult to converſe in Italian: there are even ſome of the firſt rank who can ſpeak no language but their own. A beautiful young lady, deſcended from the moſt illuſtrious blood in Genoa, was among that number in 1780. It is therefore no affront to aſk a Genoeſe lady, whether ſhe underſtands Italian? How-

ever ſtrange it muſt appear, to aſk an Italian woman, in the centre of Italy, whether ſhe talks her mother tongue?

The Genoeſe dialect is ſo much different from other Italian dialects, that a ſtranger, poſſeſſed of a thorough knowledge of the Italian, will be unable to make any ſenſe of it. It proves, that vowels heapt too much together, give no good ſound to a language. On the contrary, they make a diſpleaſing impreſſion upon the ear, and form a howling tone. The characteriſtic of this dialect conſiſts in abridging the Italian word, and dropping their conſonants; thus the vowels approach too much, are heapt together, and one half of the word is ſwallowed; E. gr. *Tavola*, the table, is called *toa*; *ſcudo*, *ſcuo*, &c.

To make amends for the unſpeakable ignorance, of which the Genoeſe are not aſhamed, they eſteem greatly all pious cere-

ceremonies, eſpecially proceſſions, in which they even exceed Rome. The number of brotherhoods is greater here than in any other city of Italy; they diſtinguiſh themſelves from each other by uniform maſks, and make a frightful ſpectacle. Their dreſs is a kind of night-gown, which covers their whole body; it conſiſts uſually of white linen, hides the head, and has but two holes left in the maſk for the eyes to peep through. Many carry daggers or knives under this diſguiſe, with which they endeavour to ſtab their enemy when paſſing alongſide. Such nefarious deeds are common here, and remain uſually unpuniſhed; the maſk conceals the real aſſaſſin, and the brotherhood, inſtead of delivering him up to juſtice, grants him protection. During my abode in Genoa, a merchant of Milan was aimed at with a knife by one of theſe devotees, but he luckily eſcaped the ſtab, which had only grazed his ſkin. What gave occaſion to this, is ſo inſignificant

ficant, as to ſeem almoſt incredible. The merchant had only obſerved to a friend, with whom he was ſtanding in the ſtreet to ſee the proceſſion, that the dreſs of ſuch a brotherhood (for on certain feaſts they appear in galla, and wear ſmall cloaths of party-coloured taffety, trimmed with fringes) did pleaſe him more than another; the villain was going to reſent this innocent obſervation by murder. A prudent ſtranger ſhould look at theſe kind of buffooneries at a diſtance; for let him be ever ſo accuſtomed to ſee acts of devotion in other parts of Italy, the oddity of this parade ſurpaſſes, on account of the groteſque maſks, and abſurd ornaments, every ridicule that can be ſeen.

Moſt of the members of this gang are common trades or journeymen. A merchant in Genoa, if ever ſo devout, would think himſelf debaſed to aſſociate with them. Nevertheleſs ſome of the moſt noble families take upon them the office of

of croſs-bearer from a ſenſe of humility. As the croſſes which are carried at the head of the proceſſion, are very great and heavy, and require a great deal of dexterity and ſtrength to be carried, the bearers muſt exerciſe themſelves long before they can make their appearance: but they are frequently made cripples during their apprenticeſhips, and ſpend the reſt of their lives as martyrs. There are, however, always crowds of candidates for this honourable poſt, who gladly pay the conſiderable expences annexed to the charge. Theſe are to buy wax tapers, and to procure other pious commodities. The rich marquis of Spinola was alſo croſs-bearer a few years ago, and diſtinguiſhed his brotherhood by his liberality.

The greateſt of all the ceremonial rites is performed to the honour of St. John, whoſe aſhes they pretend to poſſeſs here. They are ſaid to have already operated many miracles, and among others, ſaved

a ſhip which was upon the point of ſinking in the harbour. They report that it was an Engliſh ſhip, and of courſe an heretic crew, who in their agonies implored St. John, who, to reward their unexpected confidence, ſaved them from this imminent danger. In order to tranſmit this event to future ages, the whole town is in motion on the annual day of that miracle, which happened in April. The ſenate, the clergy, and brotherhoods, accompany the aſhes, which are carried by noblemen in a ſilver ſhrine to the ſea ſide, where maſs is celebrated in a magnificent tent, during which all the bells are ringing, and frequent ſalutes thundering from the cannons. It is remarkable, that in Venice policy is the guide of all ſolemnities, but in Genoa its motive is devotion. Theſe pious exerciſes might be deemed the fineſt policy to entertain the people, were it not evident that policy is not to be ſought here.

The

The particular conſtitution of Genoa is known. The doge, immediately after his election, becomes a ſtate priſoner, and dares not paſs beyond the walls of the city. This law, and the honour ſhewn to thoſe chiefs, cauſed the famous anſwer of the doge, who was ſent to France to petition Lewis XIV. Upon being aſked, what did pleaſe him moſt in Paris? he replied, *C'eſt de m'y voir.* There was formerly a crown annexed to the dignity of a doge, but now he only wears a cap. Every two years another is elected; and the former leaves his throne, and takes again his chair in the ſenate. Every public reſpect is ſhewn to thoſe who have been inveſted with that honour, in permitting them to add the title of doge to their name.

Genoa and Venice are called republics, becauſe ſome hundreds of citizens have a right to tyrannize over all the reſt, to make laws at their pleaſure, to aboliſh them,

them, to inveſt with dignities and poſts of honour, and to make ſuch uſe of the revenues as they think proper. The name of republic is a bitter lampoon to deride the ſervileneſs of theſe people. The motto of freedom belongs only to that nation which either governs itſelf, or lets govern ſuch to whom it delegates its power: then only it is free, when it has a ſhare in the government.

The old nobility contend for precedence with the new, which creates quarrels and factions, wherein the other claſſes of people take alſo concern. Theſe variances, the monopolies of the government, and the rude ignorance of the middling and lower claſſes of people, protect the ariſtocratic power of the ſenate, and cement the ſway of ſlavery.

The particular way of thinking and acting of the Genoeſe makes them hated by all other Italians. This national odium creates

creates contempt at the neighbouring courts, who make uſe of every opportunity to humble them. It is ſtill more unlucky for them, that their princely neighbours are good œconomiſts, who want no loans, and of courſe are not obliged to ſhew them any political indulgence. A great monarch, * who deſpiſed them uncommonly, gave them a clear proof of it. When he was travelling all over Italy, he would not honour Genoa with his preſence, though he was more than once near it, and viſited almoſt every great city, above all the ſea-ports. There is a report, which, whether true or falſe, is very popular in Genoa, that this monarch anſwered to the deputies of the ſenate who came to welcome him, that the number of his attendants was too *little* to appear in their town.

* Joſeph II. the late emperor.

Here

Here the reader will recollect the emancipation of this city by the mob in 1746, and its peculiar conſequences, of which Genoeſe are not little proud. Indeed neither ancient nor modern hiſtory furniſh us an example of a well-diſciplined army of a warlike nation being overcome by the mob, and driven from the conquered city. The fact would appear incredible, had it not happened in our own times. It would, however, be unjuſt to lay the blame upon the Imperial troops; they made a moſt gallant defence in their perilous ſituation, and fell victims to the inexperience of their general, the marquis de Botta. This man, void of all abilities, having driven the Genoeſe to deſpair by his hard and ſenſeleſs conduct, was quite incapable to take proper meaſures at that critical period. The people had aſſembled in crowds in all the houſes, palaces, and convents of Strada Balbi (where the Imperialiſts had their head quarters) and in all the places which were ad-

adjacent to that ſtreet. The continual fire, which came from the windows and roofs of theſe ſolid buildings, did dreadful execution among the troops, whoſe fire was without effect. The amphitheatrical ſituation of the city gave uncommon advantages to the enraged mob. All the ſtones and balls that came from above did miſchief, and the conſtancy of the troops in facing thoſe dangers helped only to ſhed more of their blood; finally, they found no other ſafety than in a precipitate retreat. This bold enterprize was the work of the loweſt order of plebeians. The reſt of the inhabitants, even the ſenate, who looked with great uncertainty upon the ſucceſs of the event, would not take any active part, and contented themſelves by furniſhing the mob with arms and ſecret maintenance. Thus, through the incapacity of a ſingle man, the Imperialiſts loſt an important country, and the marquis, inſtead of being puniſhed, was inveſted with new dignities; a proof

of his being a better courtier than a general. Had he lived in the reign of Joſeph, his treatment would probably have been quite different.

Genoa has ſince been encompaſſed with new fortifications; but they are ſo extenſive as to want 30,000 men to defend them. Should the town get no relief, in caſe of a ſiege, by foreign auxiliaries, the fortifications would be of no ſervice. The ſtanding army of the Genoeſe amounts, in all, to three thouſand men; moſt of them are Germans, both officers and privates, ill diſciplined, ill cloathed, and ill eſteemed. The general is always one of the firſt members of the ſenate; he never wears an uniform, but holds a reed cane in his hand, as a token of his dignity. The ſtate keeps only four gallies; they are moſtly uſed to conduct the ſenators to thoſe towns of their territory which lay on the ſea coaſt, and to bring the Genoeſe ladies to the

baths

baths ſituate near Piſa. This is the deſtination of the naval forces of Genoa. They ſeldom cruize againſt pirates.

The port of Genoa is fine, and veſſels lay ſafe in it againſt winds and tempeſts; nevertheleſs it would not be difficult for an experienced commander to penetrate into it with a fleet. The march of troops to Genoa would be impoſſible by land, if the king of Sardinia did chooſe to obſtruct the paſſes. When Don Philip marched his army from Nizza to Genoa, during the Auſtrian ſucceſſion war, he was forced to keep ſo near the coaſt, that the Engliſh ſhips might have rendered the road impracticable. The path is ſo narrow, that two horſemen cannot ride beſide each other, and the paſſes are ſo rude and dangerous, that the cavalry were obliged to lead their horſes by the bridle.

The negligence of the Genoeſe in cruizing againſt the pirates, and the extreme

treme weakneſs of the government, furniſh not ſlaves enough to man their ſmall number of gallies; a circumſtance the more ſurpriſing, as theft and aſſaſſination are frequently committed, and the gallies do ſupply the place of houſes of correction.

This want of objects of correction is nevertheleſs made up in a manner above the reach of human conception, and which, I think, is practiſed in no corner of the globe than here. One ſhould believe that the moſt abject degree of human miſery is the life of a galley-ſlave. To be fettered to the deck, with no other cover than the ſky, expoſed to all the caprices of the ſeaſons and the impetuoſity of the ſea, the moſt miſerable diet, eaten up by vermin, lacerated with laſhes, it ſhould ſeem thoſe wretches would envy the fate of the priſoner, who lies in chains in a ſubterraneous dungeon; for his ſituation, compared to theirs, is happy: yet, from an unaccountable

countable contradiction in human nature, there are men here who ſell their liberty to make up the deficiency of galley ſlaves. The term of ſlavery is uſually a twelve-month, and the price two zechins, which the unnatural wretch ſpends immediately in liquors. He is afterwards undreſt and chained to the galley. No difference is made between the greateſt criminals and ſuch a fellow. In the courſe of the year he may feel an inclination to farther extravagance, when money is given him, and his term prolonged. It is, therefore, rarely that ſuch baſe creatures re-obtain their liberty.

The condition of the Italian galley ſlaves is, in general, ſhocking to humanity. They get never dry at ſea, every ſurge breaks in upon them, and daſhes their bodies with ſuch violence againſt certain parts of the galley, as to break frequently their arms and legs. They muſt, once or twice a week, bathe and

clean themſelves in the ſea, yet they are almoſt devoured by vermin, and the ſhip ſtinks like an hoſpital. They are always merry, ſing and ſwear among themſelves, and get drunk as often as they find an opportunity. If ſomebody goes to ſee them without giving ſomething, they infect the curious viſitor with lice in a moſt maſterly manner. The way of living of theſe ſlaves is much like that upon the gallies of Malta and Raguſa.

The Genoeſe nobles have not renounced commerce, but practiſe that occupation ſo uſeful to the intereſt of a ſtate with unabated zeal. The two greateſt mercantile houſes belong to the noble families of Durazzo and Cambiaſi; they are not aſhamed to come upon change, and to flatter the loweſt claſs of merchants upon occaſion. They are all politeneſs and condeſcenſion *al banco*. Woe to the merchant, who builds upon this a ſyſtem of protection! For the

the ſame man who ſhook hands with him ſo cordially upon change, will talk as a deſpot, if he waits upon him at his palace. Mr. Clifford, that once ſo eminent merchant at Amſterdam, had a proof of this in the days of his higheſt proſperity, whilſt he was even careſſed by princes. He paſt through Genoa, and intended to pay a viſit to the noble Durazzo, the head of the moſt eminent commercial houſe in Genoa. Accuſtomed to find all the doors of the great open at the very uttering of his name, he was aſtoniſhed to ſee himſelf neglected in the antichamber of a nobleman without title and dignity. He looked upon it as a miſtake in the ſervant who went in to mention his name: he ſent ſeveral meſſages, that Mr. Clifford of Amſterdam was waiting; but nobody appeared. After having ſtaid in vain for a whole hour, he went away, and gave the valet the following meſſage: "Tell your "maſter that the Cliffords are not uſed

"to drudge in an antichamber, and "that the Durazzos are too little to ex- "pect ſuch an honour."

The bank of Genoa, which is conſecrated to St. George, repreſents a ſingular political phenomenon. It is quite independent from the ſenate and the legiſlative power, and makes, therefore, a kind of ſtate of its own, which has its own laws, and is often at variance with the government, yet this without has no bad conſequences. The ſenate has never yet ſeized this treaſure, but has added to it a great part of the revenues. The bank, erected in the fifteenth century, has preſerved its laws without any alteration. Its adminiſtration is in the hand of the richeſt of the citizens, who are choſen governors for life. It is a bulwark againſt the abuſe of ariſtocratic power.

As the nobleſt and richeſt members of the ſenate are merchants, or have money

concerns with the latter, the mean policy of the government ceaſes to be a myſtery: it conſiſts in taking care to keep under the yoke thoſe Genoeſe ſubjects who live upon the coaſt. Hence they have rendered difficult every acceſs to the maritime places by land, and hindered the commerce of their inhabitants, in order that the capital may not ſuffer by it. Even Savonna, the greateſt city of the republic after Genoa, groans under that oppreſſion: it formerly had a fine harbour, which the jealouſy of the Genoeſe has moſtly deſtroyed. The little republic of St. Remo has alſo the misfortune to be ſubject to Genoa; it enjoyed conſiderable privileges till 1753, when it ſtrenuouſly oppoſed an impoſt upon ſalt. Its reſiſtance was vain without foreign aid, for the city was brought under obedience and ſtripped of all privileges. The Genoeſe have erected a fort, to keep it under their yoke, and put in it a garriſon of ſeveral hundred ſoldiers. The inhabi-

tants of Noli are the happieſt of all Genoeſe ſubjects; they form a little republic of fiſhermen, and enjoy conſiderable privileges, for the preſervation of which they take the moſt anxious care.

The affairs of government and commerce, and the climate itſelf, have introduced the cuſtom among the Genoeſe, to chuſe the evening for keeping and aſſembling company. This cuſtom prevails throughout Italy, with that difference, that here all the nobility aſſemble only in one houſe. Thus it goes by turns to all families, ſo that fourteen or fifteen months elapſe before it comes round. Theſe evening aſſemblies are called *converſationi*, they begin at nine and laſt till eleven; the company play and receive refreſhments, if aſked for, and thus endeth the converſation. Nothing is more abſurd in the eyes of a ſtranger, who is not fond of gaming, than theſe aſſemblies: as they only meet for that purpoſe, and the time

is

is ſhort, there is not a minute loſt. They come, play, and haſte away. Every body is dreſt in black as uſual. The abundant uſe of china is limited by law; but ſilver plate may be purchaſed at diſcretion. The cicisbeat, a cuſtom obſerved all over Italy, is no where carried to a more ridiculous and extravagant degree than in Genoa. With the day of the nuptials ceaſes every public intercourſe between huſband and wife; they even muſt not be ſeen together, neither walking, nor at the playhouſe, nor in company; in ſhort, no where but at home. In other cities many a huſband puts himſelf above that fooliſh uſage, out of love to his ſpouſe, and has nothing elſe to fear, than to be looked upon as an unfaſhionable, jealous huſband; but here the moſt united couple muſt not think of ſuch a thing. To be forſaken by all friends, derided by enemies, inſulted by the mob, are unavoidable conſequences, if they are ever ſeen together in public. They are abhorred as

people infected by the plague, and even boſom friends avoid to meet them and hide themſelves. The latter would be laughed at, were they publicly to converſe with perſons thus remarked.

How pernicious to morals this ſenſeleſs habit muſt be in a voluptuous country, every one that knows mankind muſt allow, notwithſtanding the favourable light in which it has been preſented even by eminent travellers, who became in this point the echo of the Italians. There is nothing ridiculous on earth, but may be depicted in pleaſing colours. Enough, the lady chooſes her *ciciſbeo*, who is often mentioned in the contract of marriage, and it is he who becomes her inſeparable companion; ſhe is quite his own, except at night, when the huſband diſplaces him, though only for a few hours. A *ciciſbeo* who has a mind to do his duty properly, viſits his lady in bed in the morning, and helps her to dreſs and undreſs

undreſs herſelf, the huſband goes away, &c. It is a prejudice to look upon the Italians as jealous. It is fully proved, with regard to their wives, that they are little troubled with that paſſion: but in courtſhip and other amours, they manifeſt their jealouſy. I do not mean to ſay that, in the latter caſe, it is ſtronger among them than among other nations; yet it is more vehement, and this from a hot and revengeful temper, which frequently cannot be allayed by any thing leſs than aſſaſſination and death.

The origin of this ſingular cuſtom, muſt be conſidered to flow from a different ſource, they, having been formerly ſo much reproached with jealouſy, wiſhed to get rid of that cenſure, and ſo doing, fell by degrees into another extremity.

Whilſt the moral diſadvantage of the *cicisbeat* comes under no conſideration

among the eaſy manners of our age, the phyſical and political diſadvantage of the ſtate is, however, extraordinary in Genoa, the following inſtance will prove it. Here are merchants of all nations, eſpecially Germans, Engliſh, and French; the latter, however, do not come from France, but from thoſe parts of Switzerland where French is ſpoken. In 1780 there was not a ſingle Frenchman ſettled in Genoa as a merchant; a circumſtance the more remarkable, as there is no commercial city in Europe without French houſes. Theſe foreigners in Genoa are uſually eminent merchants; but every one, of what nation ſoever, lives in the ſtate of celibacy. However detrimental the principle of an unmarried life, adopted by ſuch a number of opulent people, muſt be to a ſtate even with regard to population, it is nevertheleſs the leaſt evil in Genoa. No foreigner ſettles but with a firm intent to ſtay for a fixed number of years, and then to go where he pleaſes. A man cannot leave

leave this city without growing rich, if he poſſeſſes all requiſite commercial knowledge, has no family, and obſerves great parſimony. Thus at the expiration of a limited ſpace of time, if death does not intervene, every foreign merchant leaves Genoa with his riches—an infinite diſadvantage for a ſtate! A rich merchant, a native of Geneva, who had ſettled in Genoa a few years ago, took the reſolution to marry, and to live according to his liking, in ſpite of the *ciciſbeat*; he therefore choſe a charming woman from his own country, whoſe poſſeſſion was to compenſate for every thing elſe. Parted from all the world, happy with one another, they endured it for a while, and lived like two anchorets in a populous city. But the vexation to be excluded, like diſhoneſt people, from all companies, walks, plays, &c. to which they could not reſort under ſuch a predicament, without being inſulted, had ſuch an effect upon them, that they both became ſick. Death

put ſhortly a period to the exiſtence of the fretting fair, and left it to her tender ſpouſe to bewail a misfortune, of which he was the ſole author, and which he might well have foreſeen.

LUCCA.

THE republic of Lucca repreſents the picture of a commonwealth very different from that of Genoa. There is more equality among its citizens, and a kind of liberty which would be ſought in vain all over Italy. This little ſtate, which is far inferior to many large Imperial towns, preſerves itſelf through its littleneſs and poverty, and enjoys undiſturbed happineſs. Liberty has generated among the inhabitants a kind of induſtry, which is exerted to the higheſt degree both in town and in the country. The fields are well cultivated, and the town people employ their time in the buſineſs of

of manufactures: they eſpecially make a vaſt quantity of maſks, and with ſo much art, that no country can rival the people of Lucca; this commodity, therefore, makes a lucrative branch of trade in a country where carnivals are objects of ſuch importance. No Jews are tolerated. It is alſo remarkable, that the natives of Lucca would never receive the Jeſuits, even at a time when that order governed one half of Europe. It is a great queſtion, whether under the banners of St. Ignace,* the induſtry and reputation of a little ſtate would have characteriſed them till now.

* St. Ignace, the founder of the Jeſuitic order.

SECT.

SECT. VII.

Character of the modern Romans.—Pride.—Religion of the Prieſts.—Toleration.—Sociableneſs.—Fondneſs of politics.—Cardinal de Bernis and the duke de Grimaldi.—The fiſh of litigiouſneſs.—Stabbing with knives.—Proteſtants.—Paper money.—Beggars.—Portioning of poor girls.—Manners of the ladies.—Viſiting of churches.—Vaſt pilgrim hoſpital.—College for the propagation of the faith (de propaganda fide).—Sanſcrit *language.—German ſeminary at Rome.*

ROME is the moſt magnificent city in Europe, and none can be compared to it: beſides, it is the principal city in the world for the artiſt, for the lover of arts, for the antiquarian, in ſhort, for every thinking individual, of whatever nation or religion. Although mag-

magnificent in its vaſt ruins, in its churches, palaces, water-ſpouts, public ſtatues, pillars, and obeliſks; yet all thoſe wonders of art do not form a rapturing *tout enſemble*. Rome is admirable only in part. Several of the moſt ſplendid edifices ſtand in corners, where they can have no effect, and are, above all, ſurrounded by mean objects. The Pantheon, for inſtance, ſtands upon a little ſpot where the women roaſt fiſhes all day long, and ſell other proviſions. The great place, called Navonna, which has the fineſt fountain in Italy, is moſtly beſet with indifferent houſes, and ſerves the purpoſe of a rag fair. The ſplendid fountain of Trevi, with its opera ſcenes, lies quite concealed. The admirable ſtairs of *Trinita di Monte* are degraded by a mean church, to which they lead. The great church of Laterano, of which the pope himſelf is rector, is ſituate in the fields. Even St. Peter's has very bad avenues before one comes to the colonnade.

By

By an aſtoniſhing change of things we find among the poſterity of the moſt famous, valiant, and freeſt people of the antique world, obſcurity, cowardice, and ſlavery united in the higheſt degree; nor is there a trace left among them of the heroic character of the Romans. The moderns, who uſurp that name, have preſerved nothing but their pride, which they manifeſt in various ways, however little it becomes them: neither do they omit to put every where that ſplendid ſentence, which we find upon the monuments of antiquity: *Senatus Populuſque Romanus*, nor care they how ridiculous it may ſound.

This pride of the Romans of our times, which they ſhew in ſpite of their poverty, ignorance, and many other defects, muſt indeed excite pity; it has no other foundation but the great name of the ancient inhabitants, and the great number of works of art, whoſe maſters are dead ſo long

long ago. Yet this pride is peculiar to labourers as well as to princes in every thing, even in their manner of expreſſing themſelves. A ſmall houſe, whoſe proprietor enjoys a ſmall rank, goes directly by the name of *palazzo* (palace). Out of vanity they aſſume the names of celebrated heroes, and the conſiderable families of modern Rome have plenty of Cæſars and Scipios. To ſend a common fellow with a meſſage is called *ambaſciata* (embaſſy). A prince, though his revenues do not amount to 4000 ſcudi, talks of his *corte* (court)—The cook of the man of quality takes the high title of *Miniſtro della cucina*, and every menial ſervant ſtyles himſelf *della famiglia* (of the family) of prince or cardinal N. N.

The nobility uſe to diſplay their pomp by the great number of theſe creatures, whom they retain in their ſervice; but this pomp is only apparent, as their wages are very ſmall, and they muſt live upon begging,

begging, a ſort of gratuity, called *mancia*. This ſhameful cuſtom is carried here to the higheſt degree of extravagance. If you have dined with ſome great man, or only had an audience of him, his ſervants come the day following to your lodgings to demand their *mancia*, which muſt be given in proportion to the nature of your concern with their maſter. He who pretends to no farther audience, or is content with what he has had, and of courſe refuſes to give a ſalary, muſt expect the groſſeſt inſolence, becauſe they inſiſt upon it as a duty.—This barbarous cuſtom is ſo common here, that the very ſervants of the pope follow it. Some maintain that many cardinals have a ſhare in the *mancias* of their ſervants, which, in the courſe of a twelvemonth, amount to a conſiderable ſum. Pride, however great among cardinals, gives often way to the love of money. Theſe men think themſelves equal to kings in point of rank, and ſuperior to electors, only becauſe

cauſe the pope is choſen from among their body; and as they ſuppoſe the pope is above the emperor, they likewiſe will have themſelves above the princes who elect the emperor. In conſequence of that conceited ridiculous notion, a cardinal, who had, a few years ago, a meſſage and concern at the court of an elector, ſet aſide all ceremonies, and came to court without being introduced. Not only a cold, but rather contemptible diſmiſſion, taught the proud prieſt the great and eſſential difference between him and a reigning elector.

This Roman pride laſts in ſpite of the humiliations which the papal ſee muſt receive at preſent from all ſides, and the accidents which it ſtill muſt expect: it is ſo obſtinate a pride as certainly deſerves not the name of policy. It is well known, that the popes refuſe, to this very day, the title of King to proteſtant monarchs. When the death of Frederic,

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the great king of Pruſſia, was announced in the Roman gazette, it mentioned that *il ſoverano di Pruſſia* was dead. Speaking of the grand ſignior, they do not call him ſultan, but *il tiranno.*

It is natural that this pride, which prevails among all claſſes of people, muſt promote luxury, notwithſtanding their extreme poverty. On feaſt and other ſolemn days, the wenches of the meaneſt plebeian rival ladies of the firſt rank in point of dreſs. It alone makes the chief object of their care, even ſhould they be obliged to live all the while upon fruits and vegetables. Often ſuch a donna, who ſtruts in ſilk gowns, has but a ſingle ſhift, which ſhe waſhes, wrapping herſelf up in rags, as the warmth of the climate makes it ſoon dry: at night they all ſleep ſtark naked. Many women, whoſe huſbands have very inſignificant places, muſt have a ſervant in livery behind them on feaſt days, when they go

to

to maſs; for this purpoſe they hire a labourer, who takes the office upon him for about ſixpence. He puts on his univerſal livery, and walks reſpectfully behind the ſignora. In any other place this would excite laughter; but here it creates more eſteem, even among perſons who are acquainted with thoſe ladies, and are fully informed of the ſixpenny contract.

This univerſal pride ſtifles an alacrity, which ſprings only from a free manner of living, from which the inhabitants of Rome are ſo far diſtant. All ſpiritual and ſecular offices are in the hands of prieſts, who are poſſeſſed of almoſt every thing that conveys dignity and imporportance. This is a greater inducement to indolence and indigence, two common epithets of the Italians, who wiſh nothing more than to be without work; hence thouſands of the inhabitants of Rome place their whole dependance upon the mendicated bits, which are daily diſtributed

buted in immenſe quantities before the convents: this circumſtance makes the mob not a little attached to the ſyſtem of their religion and the monaſtic orders.

No place in the world exhibits a greater image of ſadneſs than Rome, where ſplendor and diſſimulation have fixed their empire. To the above mentioned cauſes may be added the fatal ſirocco wind, which, while it blows, has an aſtoniſhing effect upon people, and depreſſes them both in body and mind: to this comes the want of public amuſements, the numberleſs cohorts of prieſts, and the favourite black dreſs. Rome is full of menial employ, as every cardinal keeps his own court. As the art of diſſimulation belongs to court manners, it may eaſily be gueſſed how much it prevails in this holy city. Ambition is the chief altar upon which the ſaint college bring their offerings; it was the baſis of the ſee of Rome, and the prieſts have remained faithful

to

to that ſyſtem for many ages. The Capitol was changed, but the Vatican has never undergone any change. Yet we owe to Rome, that in the barbarous ages the holy fire of ſciences did not wholly become extinct upon earth.

Many are of opinion that the great in Rome are very irreligious, though they do not externally neglect the rites of the church. This, however, is an error, and I am convinced, that the Romans, of whatever rank or condition, are as credulous here as in any city in Chriſtendom, though they ſhow leſs zeal in their religious ceremonies than other nations; a ſubject, on which I ſhall treat hereafter. It would be wronging the governors of this city to look upon the modern miracles, relics, and other things of that kind, as prieſtcrafts, uſed to deceive the people. It is beyond doubt, that ſimplicity and ſuperſtition firſt formed thoſe miraculous ideas, which were afterwards brought into a ſyſ-

a ſyſtem by deeply-meditating prieſts, and, by them, ſo much embodied with religion, that every zealous catholic looked upon them as an article of faith. This is even the caſe now with almoſt every great prelate or cardinal that compoſes the court of Rome: many of them are moſt zealous, not only with regard to the preſervation of papal authority, from which their own depends, but even in point of other matters.

Nevertheleſs, the Romans look upon themſelves as very tolerant, and grant a great deal of indulgence, eſpecially to ſtrangers; even ſtudied offences, in reſpect to religion, are very rarely puniſhed; and if the offender be a ſtranger, they uſually give him time to make his eſcape. This indulgence is often abuſed, but highly neceſſary to ſo poor a city as Rome, where the whole machine of ſubſiſtence turns upon the axis of foreign viſitors. The moſt inſignificant recommendation is ſufficient here for a ſtranger to introduce him into

into the greateſt houſes. For half a rix-dollar, or leſs, every palace, gallery, or villa in Rome ſtands open to him, yet it is certain that pride has a great ſhare in it; for what can be more flattering to the proprietor than the loud admiration of his treaſures ſtreaming from every lip and echoed in every deſcriptive tour?

A condeſcending politeneſs is otherwiſe no characteriſtic trait of the Roman nobility, who are rather more proud than haughty. As almoſt all great families reckon popes among their relations, and thoſe *governors of Chriſt* put themſelves above monarchs, the Roman princes preſume to arrogate to themſelves a ſimilar precedence before royal princes or the ſons of kings: to this muſt be added the grandeur and magnificence of their palaces, the great number of productions of art in their galleries, and certain prerogatives which they have in the city of Rome. The free admiſſion they give to foreigners in their palaces, is

nothing elſe than a permiſſion to appear in what they call *converſationi* (converſations), which are tedious beyond deſcription; there you may play, chat, and periſh with thirſt, however neceſſary a want it be to quench it in ſo hot a climate. In ſome few houſes refreſhments are given, in others the *converſationi*-gueſts get nothing, even not ſo much as a tumbler of water; which, if it happens, is owing to the complaiſance of a ſervant, who remembers the *mancia* he has received. Common invitations to table are very rare, becauſe the Romans, like other Italians, do not practiſe much hoſpitality, though an example is ſet them by the miniſters of foreign courts. Cardinal de Bernis, the French ambaſſador, is remarkably hoſpitable: every Friday his table is beſet with artiſts, and every other day with ſtrangers: his houſe and furniture are moſt magnificent, and he himſelf is highly eſteemed. He made the Engliſh always very welcome, even during the American war,

war, and if they would not come by themſelves, they received no invitation, but were requeſted in an engaging manner by his agents. The income of this cardinal amounts to 450,000 livres; his eccleſiaſtical emoluments make up the greateſt part of this ſum, viz. 300,000.*

Though the influence of the court of Rome into the affairs of Europe has ceaſed long ago, yet no where people are more attentive to political events than here. Politics are the topic in all companies. However inconceivable it may appear, the Romans ſhewed more concern at the war between England and France, than the people in Paris. It is remarkable, that the Italians are in general very fond of the Engliſh, notwithſtanding the great diſtance which religion and other

* This book was written before the revolution, viz. in 1787, conſequently, the cardinal's reveniues muſt have conſiderably decreaſed, the more ſo by late accounts.

matters have put between the two nations.

France and Spain have now ambaſſadors at Rome, who formerly governed both theſe great empires in the capacity of ſtateſmen; the firſt is cardinal Bernis, and the ſecond the duke de Grimaldi. The end of the war united their intereſts and promoted their friendſhip; but the latter was diſſolved by a fiſh whilſt I was at Rome: that circumſtance, which expoſed both premiers in a very indifferent light, furniſhed the populace with matter of merriment: it was a fiſh of uncommon ſize, brought to market by a countryman; at that time great feaſts were given to the arch-duke Ferdinand, and the price of the fiſh was put as high as twenty zechins. The cook of the Spaniſh ambaſſador was ſcrupulous to pay ſo much money, and of courſe would not ſtrike bargain, but went home to adviſe about it with the duke's ſteward. The cook of the

the cardinal took the opportunity of this abſence, and ordered the fiſh to be brought to the French ambaſſador's palace; he received thirty-five zechins for it, without being aſked the price, in order to heighten the feaſt by the rumour of the expence. The duke inſiſted upon having the fiſh, but his demands were fruitleſs: the poſſeſſion of the apple of Paris could not have been wiſhed for with more eagerneſs. Cardinal Bernis had, however, the honour to have it ſerved up, and a diſh was made for it on purpoſe, though loſt by it the friendſhip of duke Grimaldi.

The ſtabbing with knives is a thing which belongs to the cuſtoms of the Italians; but they are now leſs frequent in Tuſcany and the territory of the pope, than in Genoa, Naples, and Sicily. Theſe murderous habits are at preſent much hemmed in Rome by Spinelli, the preſent governor of the city. The ſbirrs go upon

patrole as ſoon as it grows dark, and are empowered to ſearch the pockets of every common inhabitant whom they meet with in the ſtreets: if a knife is found upon him, the ſentence of going to the gallies is unavoidable, ſhould even his condition and character put him above every ſuſpicion of this kind. This meaſure is abſolutely neceſſary, for it is no little trick to an Italian to lay in wait for his enemy, and ſtab him ſecretly. Their ſophiſtical arguments to palliate that diabolical crime are very ſingular: they compare the deed with a duel, and ſay, that as ſoon as an offence is given, the conceited duel takes an immediate beginning, and that it is neceſſary, from the very moment, to be upon one's guard not to be ſtabbed; that the ſtabs being either given from behind, againſt which a man may take care, or in front, which may be parried, it wants the ſame precautions as a duel upon the ſword. The great number of churches, and their pri-

privileges, protect otherwiſe theſe murders, which, were it not for the inexorable rigour of Spinelli, would be more numerous here than anywhere elſe. They ſay, that ſince the reign of Sixtus V. there has never been ſuch a police in Rome than that under the preſent governor. However the threſholds of the churches are beſet with the criminals, who make them their abode, and ſtay there whole weeks, or whole months, until they find an opportunity to tire the vigilance of thoſe that ſecretly watch them to make their eſcape from the city. Theſe refugees ſhelter themſelves againſt ſun and rain by ſpreading cloths. Such a ſpectacle affects an obſerving traveller, and creates the moſt indignant opinion of the legiſlature of the country, which all the pleaſingneſs of the arts cannot efface. Twenty years ago the celebrated Smollet ſaw a fellow, who had murdered his pregnant wife, walking in a moſt unconcerned manner before a church in Florence.

It is however remarkable, that theſe murders are never grounded upon ſpites of religion, notwithſtanding the great number of ſtrangers of different religions reſident in Rome. The ſpirit of making converts is alſo very imperceptible here, though they receive with joy ſuch proſelytes as wiſh to change religion, and, according to the caſe, grant them ſometimes a ſmall penſion, for which purpoſe there are ſeveral beneficent funds.

The proteſtants are buried near the pyramid of Ceſtus, a place much like a church-yard: it contains numbers of tomb-ſtones and epitaphs. The funerals are uſually performed late in the evening, and, at deſire, accompanied by ſbirrs. This precaution is neceſſary, becauſe the eſteem which the people of Rome have for ſtrangers who are not of their religion, ceaſes with their death, and when their bodies are carrying to the grave, you will often hear reſound, *Al fiume! al fiume!*

fiume! To the river! to the river! an experiment which would ſurely be made, did not the ſbirrs keep the people in awe. It is falſe that the patient, upon his death-bed, is plagued by confeſſors; an inquiry is only made of thoſe who are about the dying perſon, and upon a polite excuſe, no farther application is made. This was alſo the caſe, during my ſtay in Rome, with a deceaſed hopeful draughtſman, the ſon of the great Bach, the famous muſician, of Hamburgh. After the formal offer had been made, they ſuffered him to depart in peace, and his German countrymen, under a proper eſcort, attended him to the grave.

He that wiſhes to acquire a clear notion of the bad conſequences of the too great abundance of paper-money in an ill-governed ſtate, ought to go to Rome; there is nothing but bank notes, which are no ſmall increaſe of great poverty: they are iſſued from the *Monte de Pieta*,

where paper, according to regulation, is always to be ſolvable, but they ſeldom pay more than five per cent. in real caſh, and for the remainder a freſh note is given. All payments are made in that manner, and even ſtrangers receive no other ſpecie for their bills of exchange. To render the inconvenience ſtill greater, it is forbidden, under a great penalty, to diſcount notes with allowance of diſcount: in ſhort, this bank forms a perfect contraſt with that of London. With it the Lombard is connected, where, for the benefit of the poor, they lend up to ten ſcudi upon pledges without requiring intereſt. This inſtitution deſerves the beſt encomium and univerſal imitation. Every ſum exceeding ten ſcudi pays intereſt.

Notwithſtanding this benefit, the Lombard is little troubled by the poor, who had rather feed upon mendicated ſoups, which they need not always fetch themſelves, they being ſent to the houſes of many

many families. But this ſending of ſoups to the houſes is a favour not eaſily granted, as the pretended monaſtic beneficence would then be leſs viſible.

Rome may be called the real paradiſe of beggars, as they not only get ſubſiſtence from ſo many convents and foundations, but alſo ready caſh diſtributed among them: they have, beſides this, the freedom to go a begging in coffee-houſes, and other places of public reſort. When they have received a charity, they ſometimes call for ices in the ſame houſe, and ſet down with genteel people, which, out of chriſtian tenderneſs, is not taken amiſs. There are alſo very good foundations to portion poor girls. A girl may ſue for them without having a huſband; if her requeſt is countenanced, ſhe receives only a written aſſurance of thirty, forty, or fifty ſcudi, but the money is paid only the day after her marriage. If the girls remain unmarried, they do not enjoy, pro-

perly ſpeaking, that benefit, but ſometimes obtain leave to ſell their aſſurance, upon which a great diſcount muſt be allowed. Theſe aſſurances, if they will take pains to apply to the ſeveral places of foundations, may be obtained in great numbers, and all at the ſame time; they then publiſh the amount, which frequently makes a handſome portion. But theſe good actions are performed with a ſhow, which takes off a great deal of their merit. All the girls who have been thus portioned, muſt on a certain day, and in a peculiar dreſs, form a proceſſion, in order to ſhew their obligation before the eyes of every body. This public boaſt of private beneficence hinders many families who are fond of their honour, from partaking of it; and by this many a good girl is debarred from having a huſband.

Notwithſtanding the fondneſs of amorous intrigues, ſo prevailing among the Italian

Italian ladies, this favourite paſſion of theirs is treated in a methodical manner only in Rome. How would it be poſſible to procure huſbands to ſuch an immenſe number of poor girls, in a city which abounds with unmarried inhabitants, were not all the powers of art and ſtratagem exerted? Many foreign artiſts have fallen into theſe ſnares, and got a wife againſt every expectation. Accidents of this nature happen daily: parents permit their daughters to look all day out of the window; and whilſt in other countries love-affairs are carefully concealed from the mothers, theſe become, in Rome, the confidants of their daughters, and aſſiſt them with their advice ripened by experience. When the girl, looking out of the window in her fine dreſs, makes an impreſſion upon a man paſſing by, and he wiſhes for her acquaintance, he may know whether his wiſhes will be granted, by ſtaring in the girl's face, and greeting her at ſome diſtance at the corner of another

ther ſtreet, in order that the neighbours may take no notice of it: if ſhe does not thank him, he has no hopes; but if the compliment is returned, it is a good ſign, and he may boldly venture a letter. Time and place are appointed for a converſation, and though the lover be unable to ſupport himſelf, and ſtill leſs a wife; or his rank be above every thought of ſuch an alliance, yet the beggar girl will plainly aſk him, "Will you marry me?" If the gallant finds the propoſal againſt his liking, the girl, in concert with her mother, tries every art poſſible, and often the two lovers are ſurprized, by the parents and other witneſſes, in a poſture which is not equivocal; then the dupe has no other choice, than to pay a large ſum of money fixed by law, or to embrace matrimony, or go to the gallies.

In Rome, as well as in other cities of Italy, there are churches chiefly frequented by the ladies, whence it follows that

that a great number of men reſort to them. The maſſes which are ſaid there to edify the fair ſex, are always the laſt on Sundays and feaſts; they begin a little before twelve, in order to give the dear creatures time to dreſs and to write love-billets, which they change in church for thoſe of their gallants: this being often the only place where two lovers may meet, they endeavour to make the beſt of it they can. A pious act, ſtill better, and more convenient for an amorous couple, is the holy benediction, which, in certain churches, is given at night, with an illumination of tapers and lamps; the prayers are ſhort, and muſic fills the long pauſes. To theſe charming delights may be added the prudent choice of time, which is ſo appointed by the crafty prieſts, that after the benediction the devout tribe may go ſtrait to the opera, the *pollichinello*, or the converſations.

The

The extreme poverty which reigns in Rome, rendered neceſſary a great number of hoſpitals, endowed with the richeſt foundations; but theſe foundations of chriſtian beneficence were made in times, when poverty did not belong to the characteriſtic of the holy city. The moſt remarkable among theſe is the vaſt hoſpital for pilgrims, unparalleled in Europe. Here all catholic pilgrims are kept during three days; on the firſt night their feet are waſhed in preſence of a ſurgeon, who muſt dreſs their wounds, if they received any in conſequence of their pilgrimage. In the year of the jubilee, ſometimes ten thouſand pilgrims come in one day. The tables are ſtrewed with flowers, and abundantly loaded with all neceſſaries; the cleanlineſs obſerved is ſo great, that each pilgrim receives a clean napkin at his meal, and is ſerved by genteel people, ſometimes by perſons of the firſt rank. The tables, as well as the chambers of the women, are ſeparated from thoſe of the

men. Often thoſe female pilgrims have very worldly intentions in their wanderings. I have ſeen ſome in 1775 ſo ſmartly dreſt as if they were going to a ball: if their perſon be graceful, they are ſure of obtaining their wiſhes. They uſually travel by little journies, begging everywhere from a ſenſe of humility; and for this reaſon they are much eſteemed. I once met with ſuch a donna upon the highway near Viterbo, ſhe was doing the buſineſs of the toilet behind a buſh, in order to make a decent appearance in town. A few hours after I ſaw her again, elegantly dreſt, going from coffee-houſe to coffee-houſe to beg alms; ſhe received a great deal, but, upon leaving the houſes, diſtributed it immediately to the poor, who ſurrounded her in great crowds. Her appearance engaged ſeveral gentlemen, and this was enough to procure her ſome deſired rendezvous.

The

The Roman pilgrim hoſpital, which leaves no want to the body, is equally well provided with regard to ſpiritual matters. Twelve prieſts are appointed to pray, at morning and night, with the pilgrims, to inſtruct them in their duties, to adminiſter the ſacrament, and to bleſs their meals. To the benefit of this hoſpital are alſo entitled the new-recovered from every hoſpital in Rome, who are well treated for three days. Every Saturday night a ſermon is preached to the jews in the oratory belonging to the hoſpital. Theſe wretched people are forced to ſend their children thither, whoſe making wry faces, during the controverſial ſermon, affords a peculiar ſpectacle. The reluctance of this auditory of infidels may be eaſily conceived. The annual ſalary of the prieſt who preaches to the jews is fifty Roman ſcudi, which cannot be worſe beſtowed.

The

The number of uſeleſs foundations is very great, and being taken all together, they require enormous ſums. I am ſorry to reckon the college for the propagation of the faith *(de propagandâ fide)* among them. The valuable preſs which belongs to it, and which is unique in its kind, is furniſhed with letters and all proper materials to print books in twenty-eight different languages, among them is the moſt difficult *ſanſcrit* language; yet it can hardly be ſaid, that either the church of Rome, or religion at large, and leſs ſtill the ſciences, have any ways been benefited by this extraordinary eſtabliſhment: the whole is but a vain ſhow, to which the Italians are ſo partial, and which ſerves to blind the ignorant.

The *ſanſcrit* has been attended with a vaſt deal of expence, yet it is not very probable that this or the next generation will ſee a book printed in that language at Rome. It has ſixteen vowels, thirty-

thirty-four conſonants, and ſurpaſſes by far the Arabic, both in regularity and grammatical order; it bears alſo diſtinctive marks of having been founded upon ſound rudiments, by a ſociety of literati, who ſtudied its regularity, harmony, wonderful ſimplicity, and pathos. Whether it has been the common language of Hindoſtan at any period of antiquity, or whether it was invented by the Bramins to preſerve therein their religion and philoſophy, is a queſtion difficult to be determined. All other tongues are accidental inventions of men to expreſs their notions and wants; but the admirable formation of the *Janſcritta* ſeems to be above the power of accident. The documents contained in that peculiar language, conſiſt of elucidations with regard to the weſtern parts of Aſia, and theſe are much different from all thoſe handed down to poſterity by any former race of Arabians. It is alſo more than probable, that the former, upon ſtrict inquiry, have

left

left monuments, worthies of belief—monuments of a more remote antiquity than the latter. But whether the Indians poſſeſs a true hiſtory more ancient than that of other nations, is left to Bramins to pronounce, unleſs we be once better acquainted with their documents.

To the manifold uſeleſs foundations of Rome belonged a rich ſeminary for Germans and Hungarians, to inſtruct them here, at the very fountain of divinity and other ſpiritual practices. It has lately been ſuppreſſed by Joſeph II. The number of ſtudents amounted to ſome hundreds, and their dreſs was red. Having been taught to love Rome more than their own country, having made no proficiency, having perhaps received worſe inſtruction than they would in their own country, this inſtitution, in our enlightened age, has not only been deemed ſuperfluous but even detrimental, although it may not have been in this ſtate in its commence-

mencement in 1552. It is said, that from that date down to its final suppression, it has produced five electors, thirteen cardinals, six archbishops, above ninety bishops, and a great number of eminent prelates—but, above all, five holy *martyrs* must not be forgotten!

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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